MARVEL
SPECIAL X-MAS ISSUE!
MARVEL AGE
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36
MAR
MILLER AND MAZZUCCHELLI ON DAREDEVIL
PLUS: FRED HEMBECK MEETS MS. MARVEL
YOU GOTTA SEE IT TO BELIEVE IT!

Stan Lee presents

MARVEL AGE®

SALICRUP'S SECTION

Marvel's designing dynamo, Janet Jackson, suggested that I keep this month's Salicrup's Section short so that she'll have more room to be creative. And here I *was* planning to get all sentimental about this issue marking MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE's third anniversary! Then I *was* going to subtly slip into mentioning that *next* month is the beginning of Marvel's twenty-fifth anniversary and hint at some of the big surprises ahead. And for my big finish I *was* going to wish everyone "Happy Holidays!"

Happy Holidays, everyone!

MARVEL AGENDA

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Here is a complete checklist of what's happening in all the Marvel, Epic and Star titles bearing an April cover date.

A **Limited Series** is a title which will only run for a specific number of issues.

A **Graphic Novel** is a trade paperback-sized edition.

A **Direct Sales** title is available only at selected outlets.

Shipping Date refers to the date the comics leave the printer.

MARVEL®

COMING ATTRACTIONS

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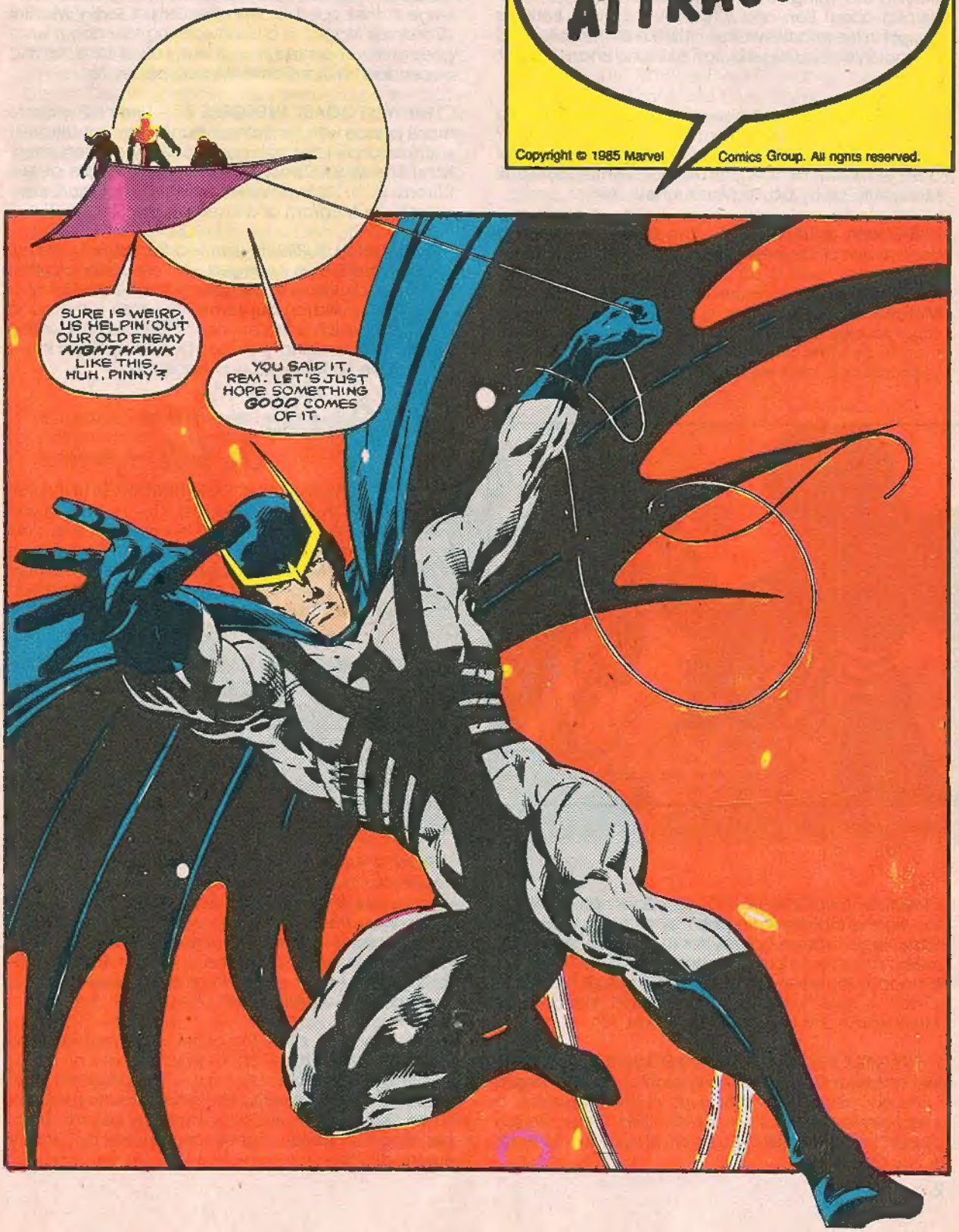

SURE IS WEIRD, US HELPIN' OUT OUR OLD ENEMY NIGHTHAWK LIKE THIS, HUH, PINNY?
YOU SAID IT, REM. LET'S JUST HOPE SOMETHING GOOD COMES OF IT.

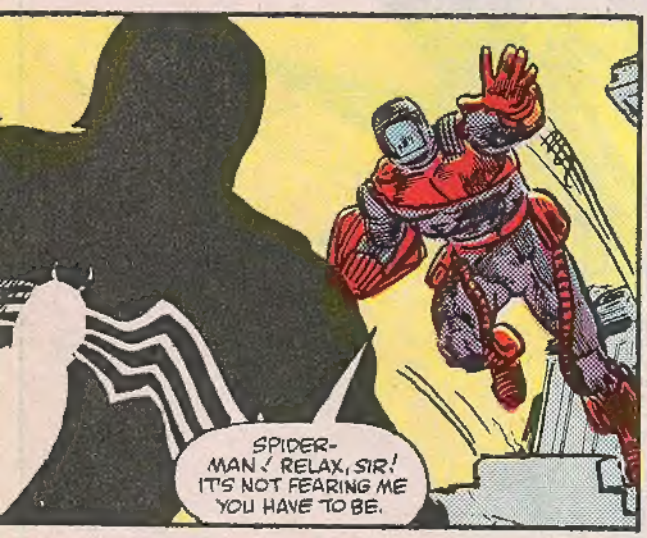
The Beast goes through changes in **X-FACTOR**! The real **Doctor Doom** returns in **FANTASTIC FOUR**! The star of **THOR** is a frog!? And you might just miss out on the excitement in these and other Marvel comics, unless you ask your favorite comics shop owner to reserve 'em for you! Don't delay—do it today!

Titles Shipping December 3.
On Sale December 24.

☐ **THE THING #34**—**The Sphinx** is back, intent on destroying **the Thing**! **The Puppet Master** is back, concerned about **Ben** and **Alicia**! And bashful **Benjy** is caught in the middle! Written by **Mike Carlin**, penciled by **Paul Ryan** and inked by **Ian Akin** and **Brian Garvey**. 75¢.

☐ **DAREDEVIL #229**—Are you ready for the return of the most important woman from **Matt Murdock's** past? **Matt** sure isn't—but it just may mean the beginning of a whole new life for him! "Born Again" is written by **Frank Miller** with art by **David Mazzuchelli**. 75¢.

☐ **THE NEW MUTANTS #38**—**The One From Beyond** has brought all **the New Mutants** back to life again—and all they have to do is cope with the experience! Plus: **Magneto** faces his greatest challenge as **the New Mutants'** instructor . . . and guess who's waiting in the wings to take over if he fails? (Hint: it's royalty.) "Aftermath" is by writer **Chris Claremont**, guest-penciler **Rick Leonardi** and inker **Bill Sienkiewicz**. 75¢.



Trevor Von Eden's highly stylized rendition of Spider-Man.

☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #13**—A pedestrian panics at the sight of **Spider-Man**, is hit by a truck . . . and the Daily Bugle blames **Spidey** for it! It's up to **Spidey** to clear his name . . . but does he want to? He just wants **J. Jonah Jameson**—and he wants blood! "Law and Order" is guest-written by **Peter David**, penciled by **Mike Harris** and inked by **Kyle Baker**. 75¢.

☐ **FRAGGLE ROCK #7**—**Mokey Fraggle** comes to the aid of **Junior Gorg**, the young giant . . . and proves to him once and for all that even a tiny **Fraggle** is a character to be reckoned with! "The Great Radish Caper" is written by **Stan Kay** with art by **Marie Severin**. A Star Comic. 65¢.

☐ **THUNDERCATS #3**—A solo story for **Panthro**! Looking for fuel for the Thunder Tank, he runs into trouble with a tribe of warrior-maidens in a treetop village! And when there's trouble, can **Mumm-Ra** be far behind? "Siege in Silver and Stone" is written by **David Michelinie**, penciled by **Jim Mooney** and inked by **Brett Breeding**. A Star Comic. 75¢.

☐ **MEET MISTY (Limited Series) #3**—A special Christmas issue featuring two stories from the typewriter, pencil and pen of **Trina Robbins**. "With A Friend Like Darlene, Who Needs Enemies" throws **Misty** and **Darlene Dunderbeck** together as they receive their greatest challenge in their quest for the affections of **Ricky Martin**! "Christmas Magic" is a heartwarming tale about what goes on in a haunted house! Plus: Lots of fashions and paper dolls! A Star Comic. Mando paper. 75¢.

☐ **THE WEST COAST AVENGERS #7**—**Ultron-12** wants to make peace with his "father," **Hank Pym**! But **Ultron-11** is still around—and he's got decidedly different intentions! **The West Coast Avengers** face a tale of *two* Ultrons, in "U, Robot!" Written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **Al Milgrom** and inked by **Joe Sinnott**. 75¢.

☐ **SQUADRON SUPREME (Limited Series) #8**—It's not just **the West Coast Avengers** who are seeing double! It's **Hyperion** versus **Hyperion** to the death! But how does **the Squadron Supreme** tell which is the good one—and which is the *evil* one? "The Clash" is written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Bob Hall** and inked by **Sam De La Rosa**. Mando paper. 75¢.

Titles Shipping December 10.
On Sale December 31.

☐ **THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE DELUXE EDITION (Limited Series) #5**—Everything you ever wanted to know about all the major Marvel stars from **the Gargoyle** to **Howard The Duck**! Researched and written by **Mark Gruenwald** and **Peter Sanderson**, penciled by a host of Marvel's best and embellished by **Joe Rubinstein**. 64 pages. Mando paper. $1.25.

☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #316**—Guest-starring **Hawkeye** and **Mockingbird** of **the West Coast Avengers**. **The Armadillo** is about to give up a promising career as an Unlimited Class Wrestler, due to devastating personal problems. Can **Cap** help? Plus: A dramatic turning point in the relationship between **Steve Rogers** and **Bernie Rosenthal**! "Creatures of Love" is written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Paul Neary** and inked by **Dennis Janke**. 75¢.

☐ **POWER PACK #21**—**Katie** and **Jack** have to work together to save their favorite author from being robbed and murdered while trying to keep from being shot themselves! While they do, they also learn an important lesson about working together in this story, which is also **Terry Austin's** debut as a writer. "The Goo Gam Affair" is written by **Terry Austin**, penciled by **Brent Anderson** and inked by **Terry Austin** as well. 75¢.

☐ **MICRONAUTS #19**—The origin of **Solitair**! Plus: The return of **Baron Karza**, about which all we can say is, it's *not* what you expect! And more: The Microverse itself faces the beginning of the end in this penultimate issue! "Love, Devotion, Surrender" is written by **Peter B. Gillis**, penciled by **Kelley Jones** and inked by **Danny Bulanadi**. 75¢.

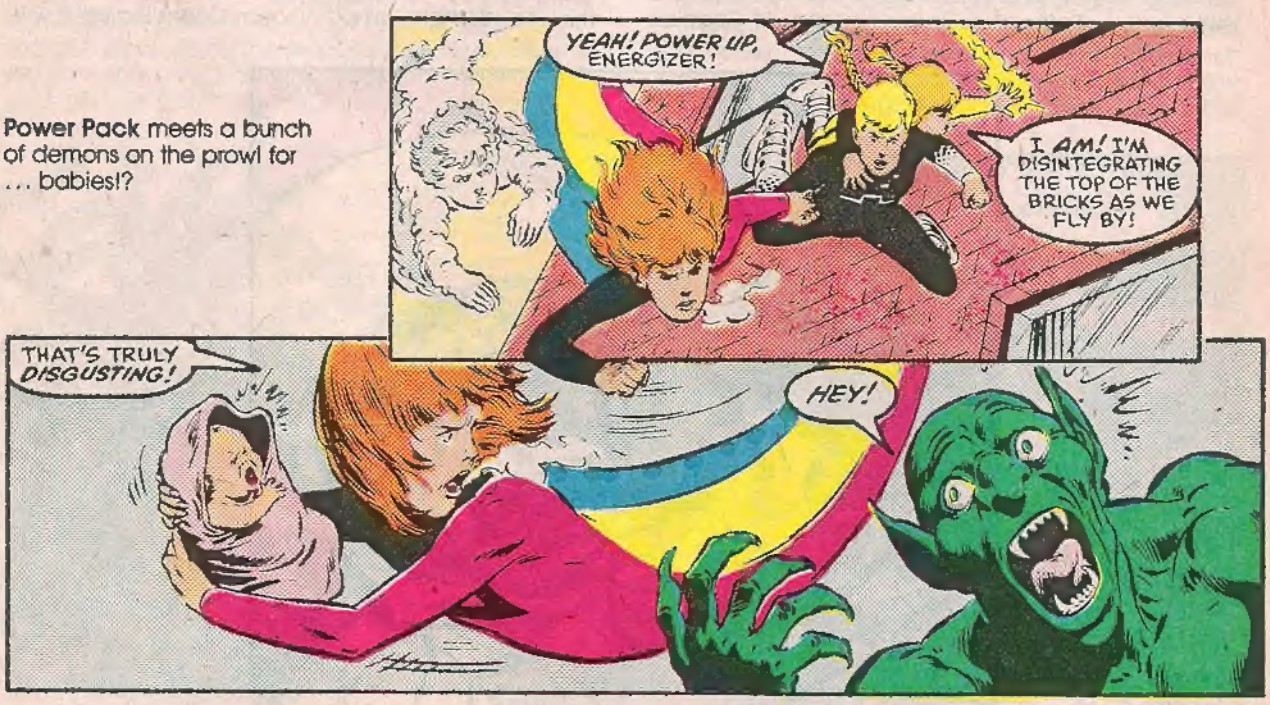
☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT** #33—**Heather**, the new **Vindicator**, flies south to the USA to receive combat training from her old friend, **Wolverine**! Neither one realizes just how soon she'll have to put her lessons to the test as **Deathstroke** attacks, claiming ownership of **Wolverine's** adamantium skeleton! "A Friend in Need" is written by **Bill Mantlo**, penciled by **Sal Buscema** and inked by **Gerry Talaoc**. 75¢.

☐ **HEATHCLIFF** #7—A strange chemical turns **Heathcliff** into the elastic-est, stretching-est, strangest cat in the world! "Elasti-Cat" is written by **Michael Gallagher**, penciled by **Warren Kremer** and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher**. A Star Comic. 75¢.

☐ **DR. STRANGE** #76—**Doc** has a run in with an extra dimensional woman called **Ivriate**, who has coerced **Doctor Darryl Berenson** into opening a gateway between her dimension and ours, so she can feed on human beings! Will **Doctor Strange** be able to find **Berenson** and send **Ivraiate** packing? Find out in "What Song the Sirens Sing," written by **Peter B. Gillis** and penciled and inked by **Chris Warner**. 75¢.

☐ **GROO THE WANDERER** #14—Every man should go where his brains lead him. This issue, **Groo** goes to work in a stone quarry. "The Quarry" is by **Sergio Aragones** with **Mark Evanier**. An Epic comic. 75¢.

Power Pack meets a bunch of demons on the prowl for . . . babies!?



☐ **THE VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH (Limited Series)** #7—**The Vision** reminisces with his body's fellow **Invaders, Captain America** and the **Sub-Mariner**! The terrible **Toad** escapes from Project Pegasus! And it all leads to an incredible battle in outer space! "Batteries Not Included" is written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **Richard Howell** and inked by **Frank Springer**. Mando paper. 75¢.

☐ **FIRESTAR (Limited Series)** #2—Thinking the Massachusetts Academy to be an ordinary boarding school, **Firestar** is unaware she's in the clutches of **the White Queen**, and being groomed to become **the Queen's** private *assassin!* Guest-starring **the X-Men, the New Mutants** and **the Hellions**! Written by **Tom DeFalco**, penciled by **Mary Wilshire** and inked by **Steve Leialoha**. Mando paper. 75¢.

☐ **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #275—Here it is! The double-sized first issue in Marvel Comics' 25th anniversary celebration! **The Hobgoblin** returns! **Peter Parker** gives up being **Spider-Man**! And **Mary Jane** won't stand for it! Plus: A special reprinting of the very *first* **Spider-Man** story, by **Stan Lee** and **Steve Ditko**! "With Great Power . . . " is written by **Tom DeFalco**, penciled by **Ron Frenz** and inked by **Joe Rubinstein**. $1.25.

☐ **THE FANTASTIC FOUR INDEX** #5—The definitive compilation of everything you ever wanted to know from **THE FANTASTIC FOUR** #60–80. Characters, credits, color cover reproductions and more, compiled by **George Olshevsky**! Mando paper. Direct sales only. $1.25.

☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN** #122—It's a tale of greed, violence and revenge, as Conan is drawn into a dockside drug world—and also encounters an obscure lizard cult. "The Blossoms of the Black Lotus" is written by **Don Kraar** with art by **Ernie Chan**. A Marvel Magazine. $1.50.

☐ **SISTERHOOD OF STEEL** #8—Last issue! The **Queen** is dead! Will all of **Vandalis'** schemes succeed? Will **Boronwë** escape with her life? "Judgement and justice" is written by **Christy Marx**, with art by **Mike Vosburg**. Mando paper. Direct sales only. For Mature Readers. An Epic Comic. $1.50.

☐ **THE BOZZ CHRONICLES** #2—It's the first detective agency London has ever seen, with **Boswell** and **Flynn** versus demons and devils, all in the 19th century! Written by **David Michelinie**, with art by **Brett Blevins**. Mando paper. For mature readers. Direct sales only. An Epic Comic. $1.50.

Titles Shipping December 17, On Sale January 7.

☐ **MARVEL SAGA #5**—Covering the climactic conclusion of the **FF**'s battle with the deadly team of **Dr. Doom** and the **Sub-Mariner**, the clash between **the Ringmaster** and **the Hulk**, and the origins of **Loki**, **the Wizard**, **the Angel** and **the Iceman**! "Of Gods And Mutants" is written by **Peter Sanderson** and illustrated by a selection of early Marvel greats, including **Jack Kirby** and **Werner Roth**. Mando paper. $1.00.

☐ **DREADSTAR #23**—**Dreadstar**'s team has split up in a desperate bid for survival—and now **the Hunt Team** are picking them off one by one! Plus: See **Mass** in action for the first time! "Hunters" is written and drawn by **Jim Starlin**. An Epic comic. Direct sales only. Baxter paper. $1.50.

☐ **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #37**—Marvel's 25th anniversary celebration begins here, with an article on the big festivities! Plus a Star spotlight on **THE DROIDS**! Not to mention our usual Coming Attractions, More Coming Attractions, and our letters page, too! 35¢. Cheap.

☐ **THE INCREDIBLE HULK #318**—The all-new **Hulkbusters** have their debut adventure! **Doc Samson** becomes a public enemy when it's learned that he freed **the Hulk**! And . . . **Betty** gives **Bruce** her answer! "Baptism of Fire" is written and drawn by **John Byrne** with background inks by **Keith Williams**. 75¢.

☐ **THE AVENGERS #266**—A special 30-page no ads epilogue to the **SECRET WARS II** saga! **The Avengers** and **the Silver Surfer** must deal with the devastation of the Rocky Mountains! Can **the Molecule Man** be persuaded to help? " . . . And The War's Desolation!" is written by **Roger Stern**, penciled by **John Buscema** and inked by **Tom Palmer**. 75¢.

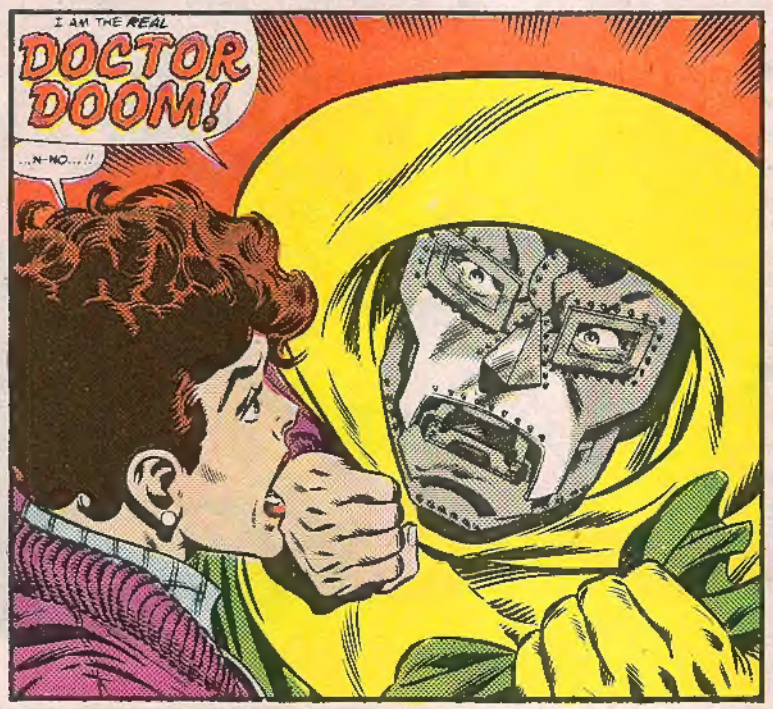
☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #181**—Years ago, **King Maddoc I** was spirited away into a mystic tower . . . and no one who has entered the tower has come out alive. Today, **Conan** brings dire warnings to **King Maddoc II**—but before he is believed, he must prove his worth . . . by braving the tower! "Maddoc's Reign" is written by **Jim Owsley**, penciled by **John Buscema** and inked by **Bob Camp**. 75¢.

☐ **MARVEL TALES #186**—Introducing the power of **the Shocker**! Saddled with an injured arm, can **Spidey** tackle him? Plus: **Peter Parker** leaves the nest, and gets a place of his own! Re-presenting the Spidey-Classic from **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #46**, "The Sinister Shocker!" Written by **Stan (the Man) Lee** with art by **Johnny (Ring-a-Ding) Romita**. 75¢.

☐ **X-MEN #204**—**Nightcrawler** deals with his fears about **the Beyonder**, a love-life that's falling apart, and the truth about himself and his origin. Guest-starring **Arcade** and a beautiful young woman who's the last of **the Elfburgs**. "What The Heck Happened To Nightcrawler?" is written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **John Romita Jr.** and inked by **Dan Green**. 75¢.

☐ **G.I. JOE #46**—**Zartan**, the master of disguise, penetrates the Pit disguised as **Ripcord**! Meanwhile, **the Cobras** have a gravely-wounded **Ripcord**—and they think he's **Zartan**! "Who's Who On Cobra Island" is written by **Larry Hama**, penciled by **Rod Whigham** and inked by **Andy Mushynsky**. Mando paper. 75¢.

☐ **THE ETERNALS (Limited Series) #7**—On the run from both **the Eternals** and **the Deviants**, **Thena** and **Kro** confront the truth about their relationship. Plus: revelations about the Deviant priests' mysterious plan and the millenia-old secrets of **the Deviants**! "Naked To Mine Enemies" is written by **Peter B. Gillis** with art by **Sal Buscema**. Mando paper. 75¢.



Doc Doom is back! And so is veteran **FF** inker **Joe Sinnott**!

☐ **THE PUNISHER (Limited Series) #4**—**The Punisher** has severed his ties with **the Trust**, his former allies. Now the mobs *and* **the Trust** are after him! Faced with this situation, there's only one alternative for **the Punisher**—attack! No holds barred action in the style that has made this Limited Series the hit of the season! "Final Solution, Part I" is written by **Steven Grant**, penciled by **Mike Zeck** and inked by **John Beatty**. 75¢.

Titles Shipping December 24. On Sale January 14.

☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #289**—**Doctor Doom** is banished from reality by **the One From Beyond**. And what that means for **the Fantastic Four** is that the *real* **Doom** is back, alive and angry! Confused? You won't be when you read "Rip Wide the Sky," written and penciled by **John Byrne** and inked by **Joe Sinnott**. 75¢.

☐ **IRON MAN #205**—**Tony Stark** launches his brand-new business venture—unaware that **A.I.M.** is lurking in the background, ready to squelch it before it gets off the ground! And they've got the greatest super-weapon since the birth (or death) of **Modok**! "Somewhere Beyond The Sky" is written by **Denny O'Neil**, penciled by **Mark Bright** and inked by **Ian Akin** and **Brian Garvey**. 75¢.

☐ **PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #113**—**Peter Parker** finds a baby in a garbage can . . . and gets embroiled in the strangest custody battle ever. You see, the child's father is **the Mauler**—and he's ready to tear apart anyone who stands between him and his child! "Father's Night Out" is written by **Peter David** with art by **Trevor Von Eden**. 75¢.

☐ **TRANSFORMERS #15**—What happens when a comic book writer reveals that he's the head of a super-secret organization that controls **the Transformers**? One thing's for sure: Neither **Optimus Prime** or **Megatron** are happy about it! "I, Robot Master" is written by **Bob Budiansky**, penciled by **Don Perlin** and inked by **Al Gordon**. Mando paper. 75¢.

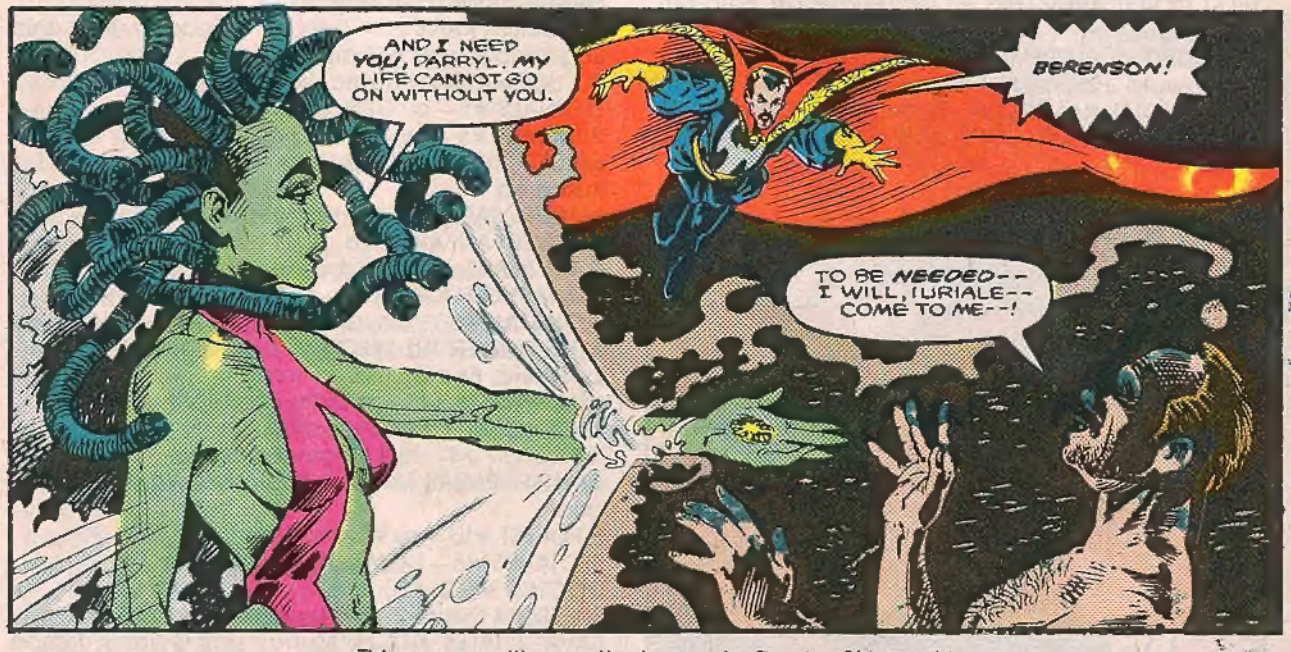
☐ **THOR #366**—Featuring the resolution of the great Althing, determing who will rule Asgard, and the Asgardian adventures of **the Thunder Frog**, this issue answers the question: What do you call a six-foot-six fighting mad frog? "SIR!!" is written and drawn by **Walt Simonson**. 75¢.

☐ **X-FACTOR #3**—**The Beast** undergoes genetic experiments—and only **X-Factor** can save him! Featuring **the Beast** as he hasn't been seen for years! "Regression Obsession" is written and inked by **Bob Layton** and penciled by **Jackson Guice**. 75¢.

☐ **TOP DOG #7**—The first-ever Star Comics crossover! **Top Dog** comes to the aid of **Royal Roy** as a great international crisis threatens both Cashelot and Lessavia! "Crisis in Cashelot" is written by **Sid Jacobson**, penciled by **Warren Kremer** and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher**. A Star Comic. 75¢.

☐ **ELFQUEST #9**—Humans come to the village of Sorrow's End, and the quest to find the rest of the elves begins. Plus: Meet **Suntop** and **Ember**, the newest **Wolfriders**! "The Quest Begins", is written by **Wendy** and **Richard Pini**; art by **Wendy Pini**. An Epic Comic. 75¢.

☐ **DOCTOR WHO #19**—Two more time-and-space-spanning adventures of the time lord known only as "the Doctor!" "The Stars Fell on Stockbridge" is written by **Steve Parkhouse** with art by **Dave Gibbons**, and "Touchdown on Deneb" is written by **Paul Neary** with art by **David Lloyd**. Plus: **Patrick Daniel O'Neill**'s information column WHO KNOWS, an in-depth look at **the Doctor**'s enemies, and more! Direct sales only. Baxter paper. $1.50.



Things are getting pretty strange for **Doctor Strange**!

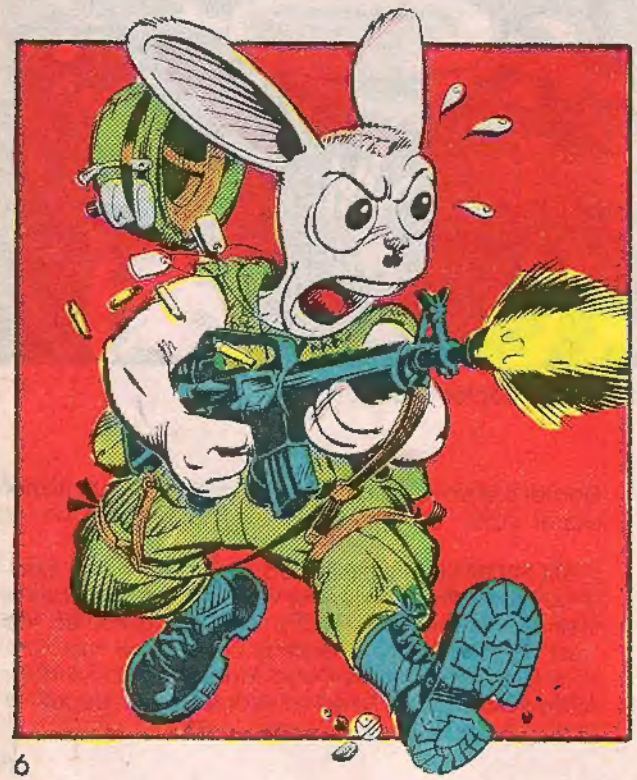
☐ **SIX FROM SIRIUS 2: (Limited Series) #3**—The "goddess," **Zematin-Iar**, promises victory to **the Quatrals** in their eternal war, while **Valis**, who has ransomed the "idol" to the Swarm, is heading back to the hub. "The Void Cyst" is written by **Doug Moench**, with full color art by **Paul Gulacy**. Direct sales only. Hudson paper. For Mature readers. An Epic Comic. $1.50.

MORE COMING ATTRACTIONS

Titles Shipping in January.

THE THING #35
DAREDEVIL #230—by Miller and Mazzuchelli.
NEW MUTANTS #39—by Claremont, Wilshire and Sienkiewicz.
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #14—by Michelinie, Harris and Baker.
WEST COAST AVENGERS #8—by Englehart, Milgrom and Sinnott.
SQUADRON SUPREME #9—"Borrowed Time" by Gruenwald, Hall and De La Rosa.
THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE DELUXE EDITION #6—by Gruenwald and Sanderson.

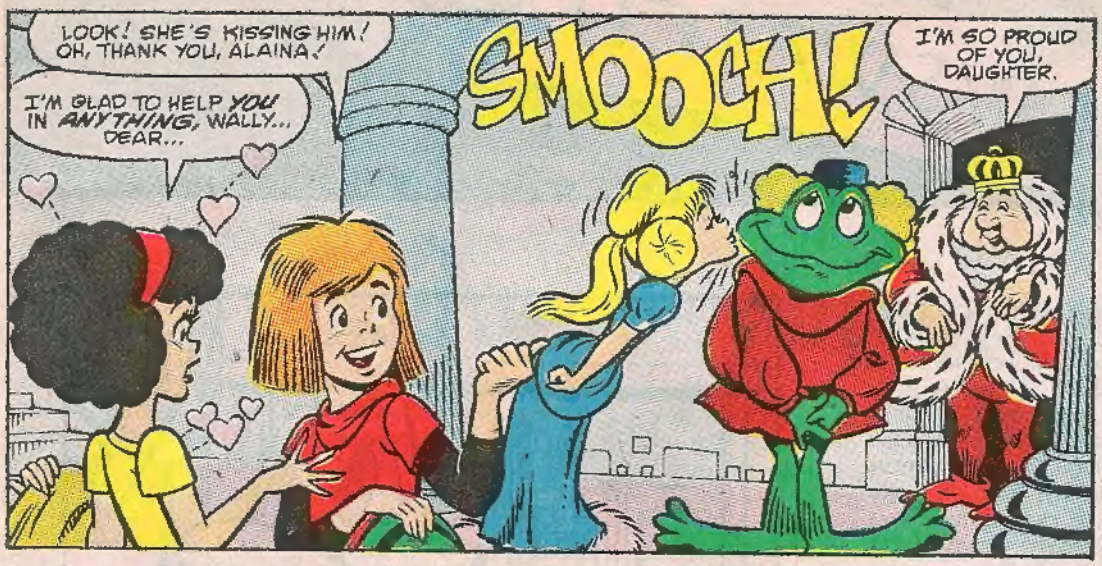
That's one mean bunny! From SAVAGE TALES!



PETER PORKER #7
CLOAK AND DAGGER #6
CONAN THE KING #34—"Harvest of Death" by Kraar and Docherty.
SWORDS OF THE SWASHBUCKLERS #6—by Mantlo and Isherwood.
CAPTAIN AMERICA #317—"Death Throws" by Gruenwald, Neary and Janke.
POWER PACK #22
MICRONAUTS #20—by Gillis, Jones and Bulanadi.
ALPHA FLIGHT #34
GROO THE WANDERER #15—by Aragones with Evanier.
THE VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH #8—by Englehart, Howell and Springer.
FIRESTAR #3—by DeFalco, Wilshire and Leialoha.
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #276—by DeFalco, Frenz and Rubinstein.
FANTASTIC FOUR INDEX #6—compiled by Olshevsky.
SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #123—"There Will Come A Dark Stranger" by Kraar and Kwapisz.
EWOKS #7
THE ONE #5—by Veitch.
MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #38
MUPPET BABIES #7
INCREDIBLE HULK #319—by Byrne.
AVENGERS #267—by Stern, J. Buscema and Palmer.
CONAN #182—by Owsley, J. Buscema and Camp.
MARVEL TALES #187—"In The Hands Of The Hunter" from AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #47 by S. Lee and Romita Sr.
X-MEN #205—by Claremont and Windsor-Smith.
POWER MAN AND IRON FIST #123—"Getting Ugly" by Owsley, Bright and Acerno.
SOLOMON KANE #5—"Hills of the Dead" by Macchio, Bogdanove and Williamson.
G.I. JOE #47—by Hama, Whigham and Mushynsky.
ETERNALS #8—by Gillis and S. Buscema.
PUNISHER #5—by Grant, Zeck and Beatty.
BALDER THE BRAVE #4—by W. Simonson and S. Buscema.
MARVEL SAGA #6—by Sanderson.
MARVEL FANFARE # 26
CARE BEARS #4
FANTASTIC FOUR #290—by Byrne and Sinnott.
IRON MAN #206—by O'Neil, Bright, Akin and Garvey.
PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #114—by David, Beachum and Breeding.
STAR WARS #105—by Duffy and Martin.
THOR #367—by W. Simonson.
X-FACTOR #4—by Layton and Guice.
TRANSFORMERS #16—by Budiansky, Perlin and Gordon.
ELFQUEST #10—by W. and R. Pini.
SECTAURS #6—by Mantlo and Geiger.
DOCTOR WHO #20
SIX FROM SIRIUS 2 #4—by Moench and Gulacy.
SAVAGE TALES #4—by Murray and Golden, Trimpe, Jungkuntz, Kraar and Waller, and more.

Titles Shipping in February.

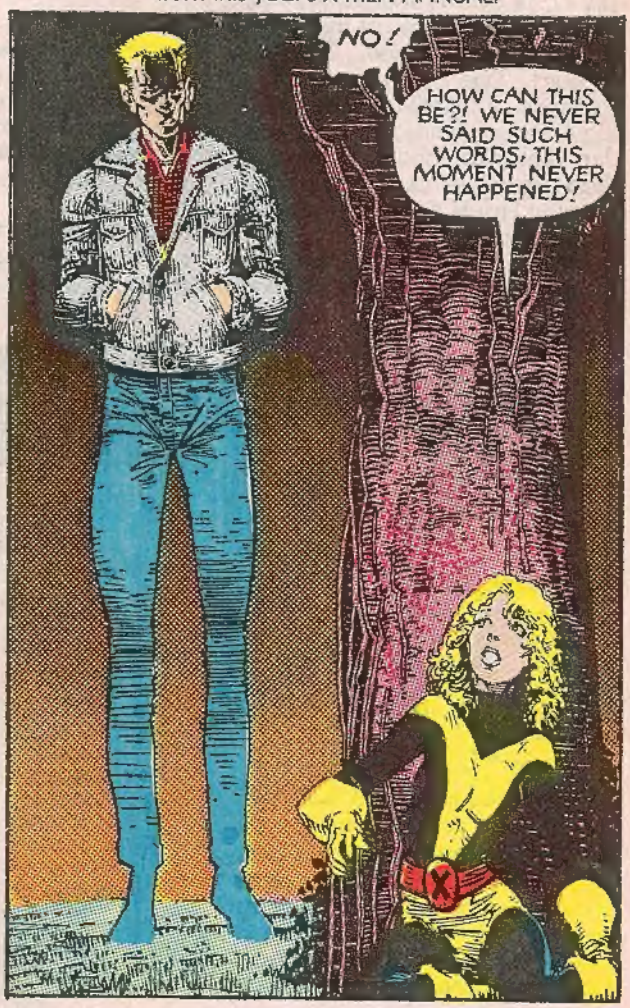
THE THING #36
DAREDEVIL #231—by Miller and Mazzuchelli.
NEW MUTANTS #40—by Claremont, Wilshire and Sienkiewicz.
FRAGGLE ROCK #7
DROIDS #1
THUNDERCATS #4—by Michelinie, Mooney and



Romance in bloom . . . in WALLY THE WIZARD!

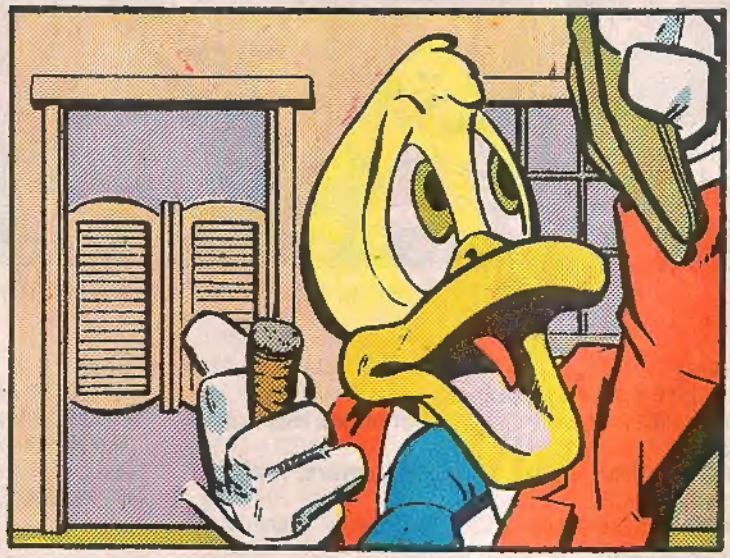
Breeding.
MEET MISTY #4—by Robbins.
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #15—by Michelinie, Harris and Baker.
WEST COAST AVENGERS #9—by Englehart, Milgrom and Sinnott.
SQUADRON SUPREME #10—"The Dark Within" by Gruenwald, Hall and De La Rosa.
THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE DELUXE EDITION #7—by Gruenwald and Sanderson.
TOP DOG #8
HEATHCLIFF #8
CAPTAIN AMERICA #318—"Justice is Served" by Gruenwald, Neary and Janke.
POWER PACK #23
ALPHA FLIGHT #35
DOCTOR STRANGE #77
GROO THE WANDERER #16—by Aragones with Evanier.
THE VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH #9—by Englehart, Howell and Springer.
FIRESTAR #4—by DeFalco, Wilshire and Leialoha.
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #277—by DeFalco, Leonardi and Rubinstein.
FANTASTIC FOUR INDEX #7—compiled by Olshevsky.
SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #124—"Return of the King" by Kraar and Chan.
THE BOZZ CHRONICLES #3—by Michelinie and Bievins.
MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #39
INCREDIBLE HULK #320—by Byrne.
AVENGERS #268—by Stern, J. Buscema and Palmer.
CONAN #183—by Owsley, J. Buscema and Camp.
MARVEL TALES #188—"The Wings of The Vulture" from AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #48 by S. Lee and Romita Sr.
X-MEN #206—by Claremont, Romita Jr and Green.
G.I. JOE #48—by Hama, Whigham and Mushynsky.
ETERNALS #9—by Gillis and S. Buscema.
MARVEL SAGA #7—by Sanderson.
DREADSTAR #24—by Starlin.
FANTASTIC FOUR #291—by Byrne and Sinnott.
IRON MAN #207—by O'Neil, Bright, Akin and Garvey.
PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #115—by David, Beachum and Breeding.
THOR #368—by W. Simonson.
X-FACTOR #5—by Layton and Guice.
TRANSFORMERS #17—by Budiansky, Perlin and Gordon.
ELFQUEST #11—by W. and R. Pini.
DOCTOR WHO #21
ALIEN LEGION #13—by Zelenetz, Stroman and Emberlin.
MOONSHADOW #7—by DeMatteis and Muth.

Art Adams and Terry Austin art from this year's X-MEN ANNUAL.



NEWSWATCH

Return of the Duck, the new Stars, a con down under and more!

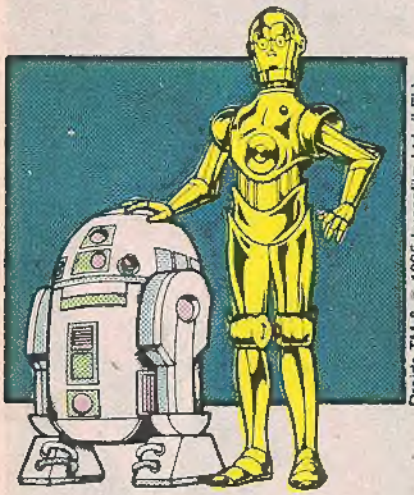


ITEM! Beginning in December there will be three brand new bi-monthly comics winging your way from Star Comics! The first is YOUNG ASTRONAUTS, based on the new CBS Saturday morning sensation, and will be by **Denny O'Neil, June Brigman** and **Pat Redding**! Then, in early January, DROIDS debuts, featuring the exploits of Star Wars' own **C-3PO** and **R2-D2**, by **David Manak, John Romita Senior** and **Carlos Garzon**! The third of these latest additions to the Star Galaxy will be HE-MAN AND THE MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE, which is set to debut in mid-January, courtesy of **Mike Carlin, Ron Wilson** and **Jackson Guice**! Be sure and check 'em out!

ITEM! Marvelmania is spreading fast and furious through the world, and now it's reached Australia! On January 17, 18 and 19 the first Australia Con will take place, at the famed Sidney Opera House. Organizer Richard Rae is expecting a minimum of 10,000 people, including American emissaries **Will Eisner, Jim Steranko**, and our very own **Stan Lee**, as well as Australian comics artist **Frants Kantor**! A splendid time is guaranteed for all!

ITEM! Keep an eye on **the Sub-Mariner**! His life is just getting more and more hectic these days—besides life with **the Avengers**, he'll be showing up as a regular for about six months in ALPHA FLIGHT, beginning with the April issue, which will start a story line that's gonna lead right into a Sub-Mariner/Alpha Flight Graphic Novel in 1986! The story also begins to answer a lot of the mysterious questions about Alpha Flight alumnus **Marinna**, who will reappear at about the same time! Watch for it!

ITEM! Hot on the heels of his comeback as a comic book star, **Howard the Duck** will also be making his film debut! After years of planning, Universal Pictures is beginning production on the life-action *Howard the Duck*, which is tentatively scheduled to be released in the summer of 1986. The characters haven't been cast yet, but one member of the production crew is settled—**George** (Star Wars, Indiana Jones, etc.) **Lucas** will be producing the waterfowl's flick!



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THE TOP TEN

Here it is! The *Marvel Top Ten* for the month of September, 1985. This list is for the top ten best-selling direct sales titles, as compiled by our simply fabulous Director of Specialty Sales, **Carol Kalish**!

1—SECRET WARS II #7
2—X-MEN #201
3—X-MEN/ALPHA FLIGHT #2
4—X-MEN ANNUAL #9
5—FANTASTIC FOUR #286
6—MARVEL UNIVERSE #2
7—NIGHTCRAWLER #3
8—AVENGERS #263
9—CLOAK AND DAGGER #4
10—WEST COAST AVENGERS #4

Looks like another healthy month for mutants and super teams, even with the beginning of the school year! Don't forget to read those textbooks, too, folks! —*A.P.*

NEWSWATCH EXTRA

ADVENTURES OF THE THUNDER FROG!

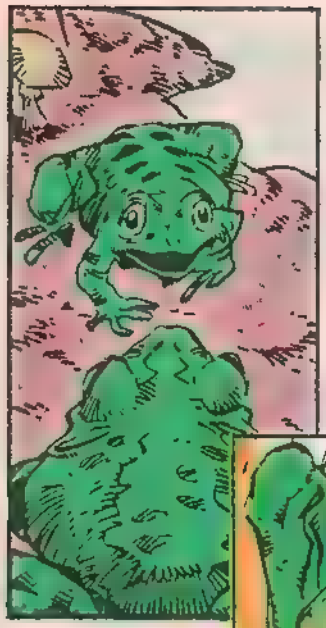
"The secret of doing good comics," says **Walt Simonson**, "is to have no shame!" Walt seems determined to prove this. Not only do upcoming issues of THOR prove Walt has no restraint, you will probably enjoy reading THOR almost as much as Walt enjoys producing it.

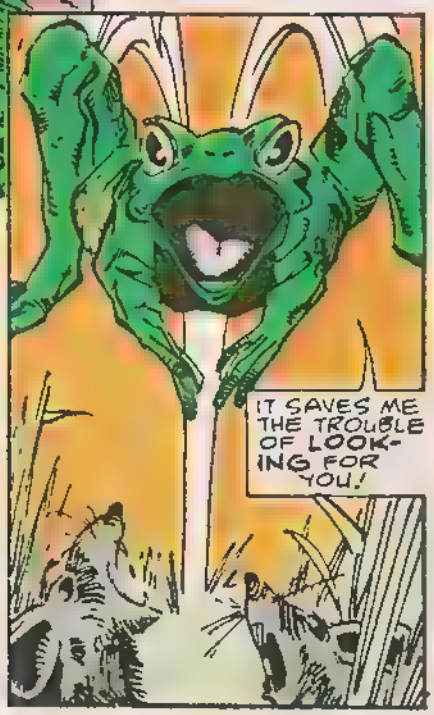
Immediately after the story in which Thor is transformed into a fine, hearty specimen of *R. catesbeiana* (that's bullfrog to you) he—*what?* You didn't know Thor was turned into a frog? Well, it's true—at the end of THOR #363, **the Beyonder**, using his powers of detection (hey, the guy can have any powers he wants!) discovered something odd about Thor, and warned him not to kiss anybody in the near future. Thor hadn't exactly been planning on it, but, as Walt said, "Thor can't take the Beyonder's advice, because at the end of the issue a young woman who had been threatened earlier in the issue runs over to tell Thor what a wonderful hero he is, and she impulsively gives him this big kiss! There's an explosion, and when it's gone, the woman goes 'gee, what am I doing here?' and walks away. Sitting next to Thor's chariot is a large bullfrog. The next issue is called 'Thor Croaks.' "

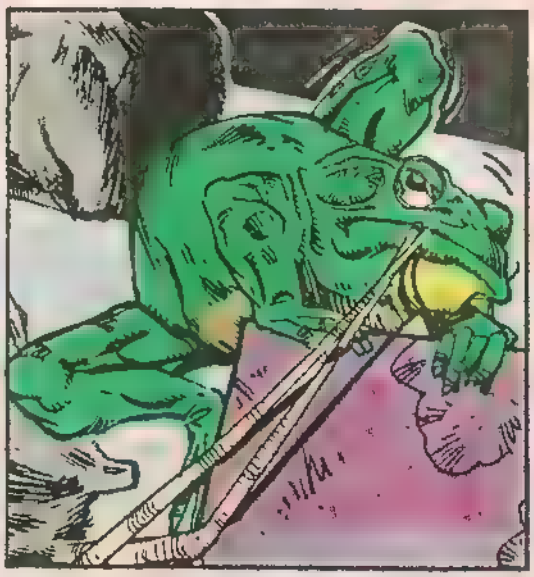
In the following few issues the story will be divided between Thor, a frog on Earth, and Asgard, where the Great Althing is starting. The Althing dates back to the time of the Vikings, according to Walt: "In Iceland, the Vikings had a kind of crude democracy where the free male citizens would gather together every so often to judge lawbreakers, make laws, whatever had to be done." The Asgardian Althing is being held to choose a new leader for the realm eternal. And while Thor has always been thought of as the heir to the throne, well, he just doesn't seem to be present. **Loki**, **Beta Ray Bill**, and others who might claim the throne are there, as is a mysterious Thor look-alike.

On Earth, Thor gets involved in what Walt calls "The Rat-Frog Wars of Central Park." The frogs receive a big boost when a new, powerful frog joins their battle! While Walt isn't sure exactly how strong Thor the Frog is in terms of MARVEL UNIVERSE, he is certainly stronger than your average frog. In issue #365, Thor gets **Piper**, the Morlock who can command animals by playing a flute, to help the frogs.

Then, Walt says, "Thor is faced with a problem: he knows the Great Althing is going on, but he's not there. He makes it back to his chariot, still sitting in the alleyway where he left it, and his hammer is lying on the ground. Thor realizes that the hammer's inscription only says that you have to be worthy—not necessarily humanoid, as Beta Ray Bill proved. Thor figures he's the same mentally, and that by using the hammer's transformation power, he can turn back







be the God-Giant war, in which the frost giants have learned that **Odin** is gone, and decide that now is the time to attack. "The giants make their first effort to isolate Asgard by attacking **Karnilla** and her realm," which will occur in the BALDER Limited Series.

In THOR, Walt would like to explore the Thunder God's personality more than he has up til now. "The character of Thor, for me, has not been explored in detail in my issues as much as the characters of most of the supporting cast. Part of that is that Thor sort of carries everyone else on his back. I can do horrible things to **Balder**, and have **Volstagg** sit on people, but Thor is the linchpin that everything revolves around."

In the future (post-frog, that is) Thor will be growing a beard and mustache to hide the scars of his battle with **Hela**. Says Walt: "It's only as permanent as anything in comic books, but as long as it generates story ideas for me, fine. I don't want to create the feeling that we can just wave a finger and everything will be fine. In fact, when Thor meets the Beyonder, the Beyonder could have solved his, um, complexion problems and deliberately doesn't. I would like to make the scars something Thor is going to have to live with."

"When tragedy strikes, Thor's unhappy for a week. When tragedy really strikes, Thor's unhappy for two weeks. I don't want to make him a pessimist, but I would like to create situations around Thor where the old responses are no longer appropriate. The scars are a bit deeper than just the face, and this will give Thor something to think about."

Walt also plans to bring the series' focus back to Earth, and bring back some of the mythological foes who haven't been seen in Thor lately, including the **Fenris Wolf** and the **Midgard Serpent**, "who is sort of Thor's opposite number on the bad guy side," says Walt. He also plans to bring back the **Zaniac**, who "has too good a name to languish in obscurity." Beta Ray Bill will return to his own people after the Althing, but may eventually wind up in his own limited series.

Walt has no plans to leave the series in the foreseeable future, despite the fact that he had originally expected to leave THOR after a year or two. "I think right now I've become the third longest guy to draw the book, behind **John Buscema** and **Jack Kirby**. I don't think I have a hope of catching either of those guys, but I would like to do it for a while longer."

"I have more ideas for THOR now than when I began the book. Part of this is just finding where current storylines are leading me. I haven't decided where to take the next cycle. I know what I want to do, basically, but probably in a month or two I'll sit down and take all these ideas and wind them up."

A poster of Thor the Frog has been in comics shops for months now, but Walt says people tended to think it was some kind of joke. "I can't help it if people don't believe me!" You may not believe all the things Walt has planned for THOR, either, but there's no doubt you'll enjoy them!

—Steve Freitag

to normal.

Says Walt: "There's this scene that guys of my generation who read comics always thought was one of the best things Marvel ever did. It was in SPIDER-MAN #33 by **Lee** and **Ditko**, where **Spider-Man** had to lift a heavy piece of machinery he was trapped under, and it takes him three or four pages to lift it. I'm doing a whole number on that, a homage where Thor the Frog has to lift the hammer, and ultimately he does it. When the energy explosion clears, there, standing in the alley, is a six-foot-six fighting mad bullfrog, wearing a Thor outfit. He leaps into the chariot and takes off down the alley into space!"

This bizarre transformation was Loki's fault, of course. Loki had found Twilight, **Surtur's** lost sword, and was able to tap into the magical energy of the sword. The Asgardians will eventually discover the sword, and install it as the new equivalent to the Odinsword.

"I try to run stories in cycles," says Walt, "where there'll be a larger story lurking beneath the obvious ones. The Surtur story ran over a dozen issues, and now it's 'Who Will Rule Asgard?' " The third major cycle will

Santa Claus™ is coming your way

It all began with a kindly woodcarver called **Claus**, in Europe's middle ages. Every Christmas, Claus travelled from town to town, bearing gifts he had carved himself. He gave these beautiful toys to young girls and boys, and was content to know that his gifts made people happy. He did this every year, until one Christmas, when Claus and his wife were suddenly caught in a savage blizzard. They would have been frozen in the storm, but were miraculously saved by a group of elves, who said that Claus was the leader they had been told of in their prophecies, and that together they would bring Christmas cheer to the entire world. The elves then gave the Clauses the power of eternal life, so that they could continue to spread the Christmas spirit forever. And that's how the legends began . . .

This Christmas, Universal Pictures brings the legend to life in *Santa Claus: the Movie*, and Marvel Comics brings you the story as well, in MARVEL SUPER SPECIAL #39. The magazine sized, full color adaptation is written by Star Comics editor **Sid Jacobson** and illustrated by **Frank Springer**, who is no stranger to Christmas comics himself. (And for more on that, see our **X-mas Stories** article elsewhere in this issue.)

Besides covering the early career of Santa Claus, the story also brings us to today's world, in which the sentiments of Christmas aren't so easy to relate to anymore. Even some of the elves are a little tired of the Christmas spirit. One in particular, a young elf named **Patch** (played by **Dudley Moore**) is so fed up with the old fashioned holiday cheer that he decides to leave the elves' abode and join the outside world. There he meets a man named **B.Z.** (played by **John Lithgow**), the president of B.Z. Toys. B.Z. thinks that he and Patch can work up a deal together – all B.Z. needs to really get ahead in the toy business is some information, and Patch is just the elf to provide it. It seems B.Z. is interested in marketing a line of toys endowed with the power of magical flight, the same power that enables Santa to deliver all those presents all over the world on Christmas Eve.

Obviously, B.Z. just doesn't care about the spirit of Christmas. When Patch begins to become a little reluctant about giving away Santa's secrets, B.Z. becomes more and more insistent. He only wants to exploit the magic of Christmas, and it becomes Santa's job to stop Patch from revealing the secret of magical flight and to bring him back to the fold, by teaching him the true meaning of Christmas. Santa (portrayed by **David Huddleston**) is saddled with the difficult and important task of teaching Patch, as well as the entire world, that Christmas is a time of loving and caring. And yet it is the job he was born for, and the job he intends to keep forever.

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Will Santa be able to keep B.Z. from ruining Christmas? Will he be able to show Patch that Christmas isn't obsolete? All this and much, much more await you in MARVEL COMICS SUPER SPECIAL #39's adaptation of Santa Claus, the Movie!

—*Adam Philips*

X-TRA THE MUTANT REPORT X-TRA

VOLUME 1 "The Next Step in News Evolution" NUMBER 7

MARY WILSHIRE MAKING HER WAY AMONG THE MUTANTS

"I'm just a regular girl who loves to tell a good story," says Mary Wilshire. She tells her stories not with words, but with pictures. And if her artwork on the FIRESTAR Limited Series and the NEW MUTANTS is any indication, she tells a very good story indeed.

"As far back as I can remember, I have always drawn," said Mary. She bounced around a lot, trying her hand at different types of art jobs after getting out of college, before she came to Marvel. "This is the first medium I've found where my drawing style seems to really fit in."

Mary came to Marvel a few years ago to do work for editor Larry Hama on CRAZY Magazine. Then came a few CONAN fill-ins, and the opportunity to work on RED SONJA.

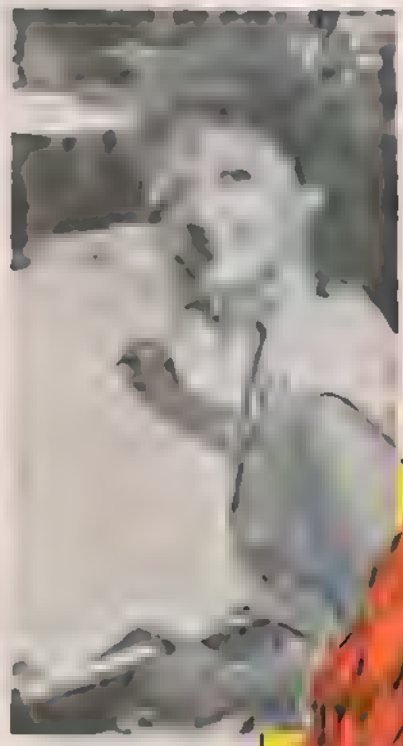
"RED SONJA worked out well and I was given a chance to expand and improve on my artwork. One thing led to another and I got to do FIRESTAR and now the NEW MUTANTS," explained Mary. "The rest, as they say, is history!"

Mary took over the art chores of NEW MUTANTS as of issue #35, following in the footsteps of Bill Sienkiewicz and Steve Leialoha, and couldn't be more pleased with the assignment. "I think mutant characters are terrific! And teenage characters are even better," she said. "I love the idea of drawing teenagers. They really interest me. It is such a volatile, difficult time of life. I think it's a stage anyone can relate to."

Mary sees mutant powers as an excellent metaphor—as the New Mutants learn to use their powers, they reflect the way normal teenagers learn to use their own powers as people. "This is all in Chris Claremont's stories," she explained. "They work on so many levels, and the depth has to be one of the reasons the books are so popular. He really gets involved with his characters and puts them in situations that are a lot like what people have to go through at that stage of life!"

The New Mutants are special to Mary, too. "I really like the kids. I think they are interesting characters and I like the way they interact with their powers. But I mostly love drawing teenage soap opera, which is what I consider NEW MUTANTS to be."

It is emotion and character interaction that seem to be Mary's strong points. Tom DeFalco, who wrote the FIRESTAR Limited Series, described Mary's artwork as having "a tremendous amount of sensitivity when dealing with people and people situations. The emotions just come out in every panel."



Mary Wilshire and old pal Red Sonja. Opposite: Mary's pencils with Bill Sienkiewicz's inks.

RED SONJA © 1985 Red Sonja Corporation. All Rights Reserved.

"I like drawing emotional stuff," said Mary. "We really want to try to develop that angle in the NEW MUTANTS. We want to get into the individual characters and see what each kid is really like. This is hard to do when they're all together because there's so many of them. So we'll be separating them and having a few traumatic things happen along the way."

With FIRESTAR, Mary got her first taste of mutants. Writer Tom DeFalco feels that her art brought out much of the terror of the frightened young girl that was essential to the story. But Mary says it was what she had to work with that made it so special.

"Tom wrote such a gut-wrencher for FIRESTAR," said Mary. "I was so impressed! The temptation is to think that a man won't be able to write a really powerful story about the trials and tribulations of growing up a young girl. But Tom did it, and he did such a good job."

Mary approaches every job as though she were a director making a movie. "When I do the breakdowns, I don't just do layouts I try to get into the story as though I were making a film. I try to imagine how I would direct the actors

and how they would respond. I try to plan and choose my shots very carefully. I get involved with the storytelling and I do this through the acting of the characters."

On NEW MUTANTS, Mary works closely with writer Chris Claremont. "Chris is great. He's so involved with his characters and the stories he puts them in. It's unbelievable the involvement he's developed in the 10 years he's worked with mutants."

Following penciler Bill Sienkiewicz on NEW MUTANTS has been a learning experience for Mary. "Bill is like a nova. He's evolving so rapidly in his art and that's something I have a tremendous respect for," she said. "He is so open to changes in his own work and that makes wonderful things happen. As for me, I'm still starting out so in a lot of ways my approach to storytelling is much more traditional."

What are some of the differences Mary sees between her approach to NEW MUTANTS and Bill's? "I don't have the same flair for design that Bill has," she explained. "But it has helped me to look at some of his work and I've been trying very hard to do some more dynamic things with my design, especially in showing how the kids will move through a page with their superpowers. He is really good at designing panels that emphasize the movement or the action or the drama. I feel though, in some ways, my storytelling is clearer. So it all balances out."

To make the transition easier, Bill is inking Mary's work for a few issues. "There are places where you can see the clash of our styles, and other places where he brings an articulation to my pencils that I haven't seen from any other inker," said Mary. "It's very interesting and I'll have to let the readers decide what they think. When a penciler and an inker get together for the first time you can't plan the outcome. But it usually works out to be a pleasant surprise."

Another pleasant surprise for Mary was the recent invitation from John Byrne to work on the upcoming INVISIBLE WOMAN Limited Series. It just goes to prove what she is always telling herself —the harder you work at getting better, the more in demand your work will be. She also plans to do more RED SONJA work with Louise Simonson, has a White Queen poster on the stands, and is, of course, continuing with the NEW MUTANTS.

"If the readers like what Chris has to say in the stories, that's what is important," said Mary. "I hope they give my artwork a chance. I want to get into the personalities of the New Mutant kids as much as I can through the drawings. I just want to keep getting better as I go along."

From the work we've seen so far, and with her future projects, we think Mary Wilshire is off to a running start.

THE STRANGEST STORY EVER TOAD!

Look out! A terrible mutant of the evil persuasion is about to bust loose and his plans include making life awful for a certain crimson synthozoid and his lovely mutant wife. That's right, Magneto's one-time lacky, the Toad, is back and causing trouble in VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH #7.

But this isn't the Toad we all know and love from the days of the original Brotherhood of Evil Mutants. This is the all new, deadlier than ever Toad. And he's out to destroy Vision and finally win the love of Wanda, the Scarlet Witch.

And that's not the only thing to look forward to in the Limited Series that chronicles the adventures of the happily married mutant and synthozoid. We'll also reminisce with Captain America and Prince Namor about their old buddy from World War II, the original Human Torch, whose body the Vision occupies. We'll also join Wanda for a special holiday celebration. Oh yes, and we'll travel into outer space for a spectacular battle between the Vision and the Toad.

WOLVERINE'S BONES IN JEOPARDY?

Watch out for ALPHA FLIGHT #33 and 34. The two issue saga features a cameo appearance by the X-Men, and Wolverine will play a major role in the birth of a new super hero. But can even the new Guardian provide enough power to defeat an army of Samurai warriors?

As the new Guardian learns about her untried powers, Wolverine will also learn something about his past. We'll meet Deathstrike, who claims to be the owner of Logan's adamantium skeleton. The problem is, Deathstrike wants the skeleton back! With dynamic layouts by Sal Buscema, a hint about Wolverine's mysterious past, and the coming of the all-new Guardian, would any mutant lover want to miss it?

—Bill Slavicsek

NIGHTCRAWLER REVELATIONS

The question on everybody's minds concerns the whereabouts of one fuzzy blue mutant during the X-Men's heart-stopping battle with the Beyonder. Just where the heck was Nightcrawler? Well, the answer is coming your way beginning in X MEN #204. It's the start of an epic adventure that will take Nightcrawler from the wilds of Central Park to the back woods of Europe.

CHRISTMAS

This Christmas, aside from our adaptation of SANTA CLAUS: THE MOVIE, Marvel will be celebrating in a time honored fashion. Over the years there have been quite a few Christmas stories at Marvel, and this year will see some new Christmas stories as well. In the past there have been stories about the Christmas spirit, and stories about the lack of it; stories for people who love Christmas and stories for people who can't stand it! Now, let's take a look at some of the more memorable Christmas stories that have been produced over the last twenty five years!

MARVEL STYLE

Issue #10 of NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. was called "Twas the Night Before Christmas," and was written by **Gary Friedrich**, with art by **Frank Springer** and **Johnny Craig**. This particular Christmas Eve found **Nick** about to settle down in front of a cozy fire with **Laura Brown**, **Frank Sinatra's** Christmas Album and some of his special Christmas Daquiris. But before the couple could get too cozy, Nick was called in on an emergency by Agent **Jasper Sitwell**. S.H.I.E.L.D. had received a threat from **the Hate-Monger**, whom they had recently defeated. The Hate-Monger planned to wipe New York City out of existence with a nuclear device in a space vehicle, and when Fury tried to infiltrate his orbital headquarters, he was captured and put into the space ship's capsule, to be launched to his death. After the launch, however, the nuclear bomb was destroyed by one of the Hate-Monger's own aircraft when its pilot was suddenly distracted by a mysterious object flying through the sky at unbelievable speed. Nick rejoined Laura after being rescued, but we were never actually told if Nick was saved by *Saint* Nick!

AMAZING ADVENTURES #5's **Black Widow** story, by **Roy Thomas**, **Gene Colan** and **Bill Everett**, featured a more tragic Yuletide tale in which the Black Widow and her chauffeur **Ivan** took a teenage boy who tried to commit suicide under their wings. The boy, who had come to New York from Utah, fell in with a gang of criminals when he was broke and on the streets. The gang's leader, a Fagan-like character called **the Astrologer**, led the group of teenagers in stealing from the rich and giving to the poor —namely, themselves! But when the Astrologer suggested holding New York's entire supply of rare O negative blood for ransom, the boy lost all enthusiasm for his life of crime. He took off, and was trying to commit suicide to keep the Astrologer's thugs from finding him and forcing him to take part in the crime. Ivan found the boy and brought him back to the apartment he and the Widow occupied, and eventually the Astrologer tracked him down. During the ensuing fight, the boy leapt on one of the attackers, in an effort to save the Widow's life. Tragically, both he and the attacker went sailing off the roof. While the Astrologer's scheme had been stopped, the cost —an innocent boy's life—was too high a price to pay.

Our next Christmas tale is a little more lighthearted. MARVEL TEAM-UP #1 featured a story by Roy Thomas, **Ross Andru** and **Mike Esposito**, in which **Peter Parker**, while covering a meeting of the Polar Bears Club at the beach, witnessed the return of the **Sandman**. As **Spider-Man**, Peter couldn't catch the elusive villain, and so he enlisted the help of **Johnny Storm**, who had had plenty of experience in fighting the Sandman along with the rest

of the **Frightful Four**. It turned out that all Sandy really wanted, though, was to visit his mother on Christmas Eve. The heroes gave him a break, and let him have his visit—and Spider-Man even gave him a gold brooch he had been planning to give to **Gwen Stacy**. Sandman escaped again, disappearing down a sink drawin, but somehow the two heroes didn't have the heart to give chase.

Steve Englehart, **George Tuska** and **Billy Graham** presented us our next Christmas tale in LUKE CAGE, HERO FOR HIRE #7. (**Luke** was to become **Power Man** ten issues later.) On their way home from **Claire Temple's** medical clinic on Christmas Eve, Cage was attacked by three different men—one, seemingly from the nineteenth century, the second a veteran of the Viet Nam war, and the third a futuristic policeman. By the time of the third attack, Cage had realized that these were all one certifiable wacko, in different disguises. While chasing around Manhattan in search of this man, Cage stopped to ask a streecorner **Santa** if he'd seen this maniac. In answer, Cage was clubbed into unconsciousness by the Santa, who was the man again, in another disguise. Cage awoke to find himself a prisoner of a man who had rigged up an atomic bomb which he intended to detonate at dawn on Christmas day, to destroy what he considered to be an intolerable world. Just as he began to plunge the detonator, though, he was distracted by something coming down the chimney. It gave Cage the chance to break out of his bonds and knock the guy out. And no, it wasn't Santa coming down the chimney . . . just a thief who picked the right moment to break into the apartment.

Marvel continued its tradition of making Christmas special when in the middle 1970's we released two special tabloid sized reprint packages of Christmas stories and other especially exciting and memorable stories, including FANTASTIC FOUR #25 and #26 (which co-starred **the Hulk** and **the Avengers**) and DAREDEVIL #7, in which **DD** first donned his all-red costume and battled the savage **Sub-Mariner**. These GIANT SUPERHERO HOLIDAY GRAB BAGS were terrific collections of some of Marvel's greatest stories, brought together with Christmas as a running theme.

More recently, we put out a magazine for people who don't even like Christmas! BIZARRE ADVENTURES #34, from 1983, featured some of the nastiest Christmas stories ever, by people such as **Mark Gruenwald**, **Alan Kupperberg**, **Steven Grant**, **Paul Smith**, **Larry Hama**, **Bob Camp**, **Al Milgrom**, and **Mike Carlin**. This was definitely the last word in Christmas cheer, as the stories showed us sides of Santa we just didn't know existed—Santa was involved in murders, thrown in jail, frozen to death and more!

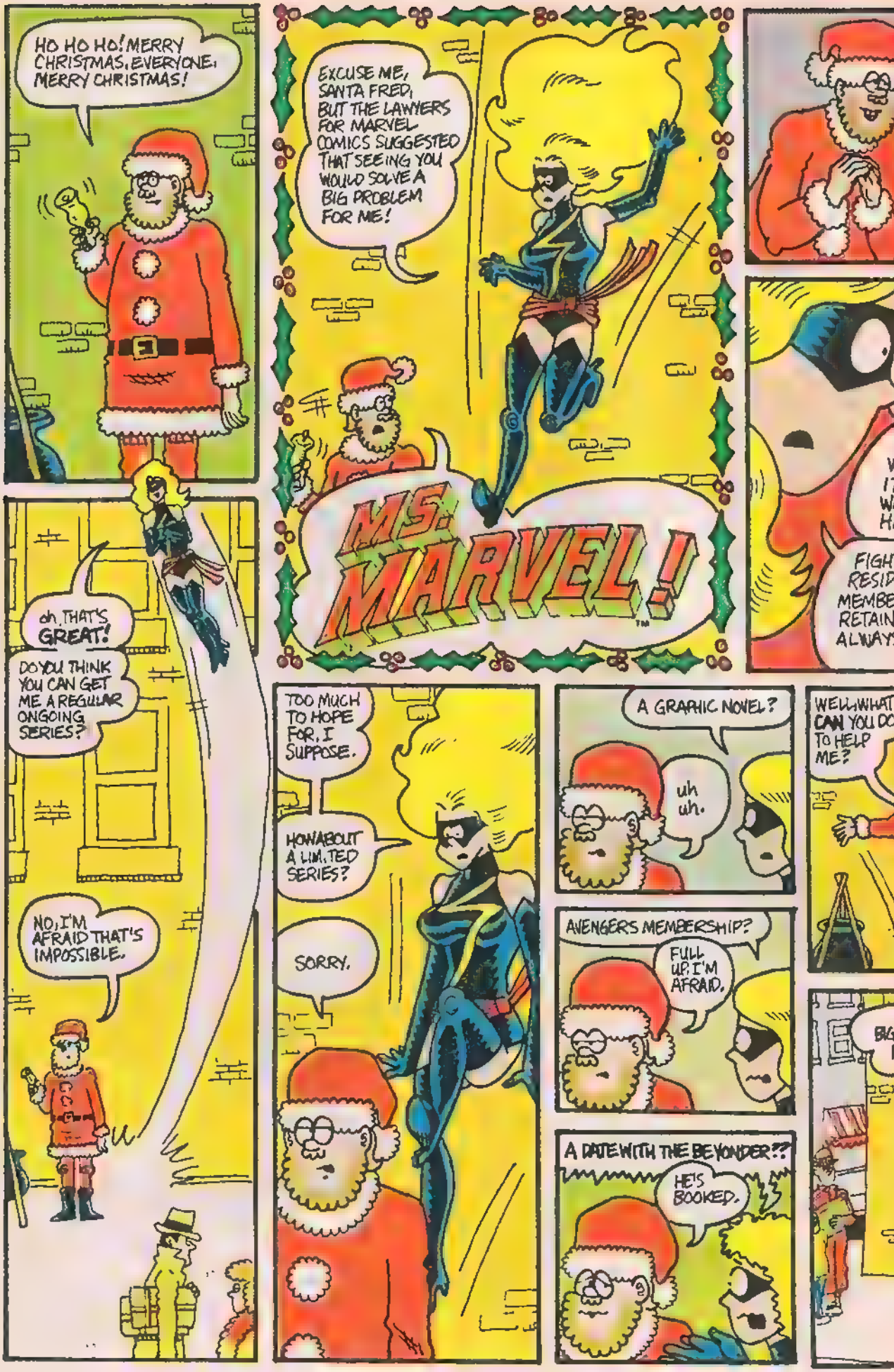
HEATHCLIFF #6 features two Christmas stories. The first has **Heathcliff** helping **Santa** finish delivering presents, after the feline fury manages to wreck Santa's sleigh! Unfortunately, the gift list leads him to the homes of **Crazy Shirley**, **Muggsy Faber** and **Mr. Elite**, the butcher! Heathcliff still shows them the meaning of the holiday, though. There's also a short Heathcliff version of "Twas the Night Before Christmas" in which Heathcliff and **Iggy** put one over on Santa!

Heathcliff isn't the only one spreading Christmas cheer this year, either! MISTY #3 features a story in which **Misty**, **Spike** and **Shirelle** meet **Mrs. Calhoun**, a lady who lives in a haunted house, and who is in dire need of help this Christmas. With their help, Mrs. Calhoun celebrates Christmas as she hasn't in years!

THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN gets involved in a special Christmas story this year, as well. It seems that **Peter**, like many other young people, has ended up spending Christmas Eve alone. As the story's writer **Peter David** put it, "Christmas is generally a very depressing time if you're a young person." At the same time, a crook disguised as Santa Claus has been breaking into local houses, by knocking on the windows of young children's rooms. The children, believing that this is Santa Claus, let him in, and he in return ransacks their homes. "Santa" ends up running into Peter, who manages to stop his one-man crime wave—with a little help from a mysterious guest star!

These new stories are only the newest in Marvel's long tradition of Christmas stories, and there are sure to be many more in this vein over the coming years. In the meantime, though, have yourselves a merry little Christmas . . . the Marvel way!

—*Adam Philips*


HO HO HO! MERRY CHRISTMAS, EVERYONE. MERRY CHRISTMAS!
EXCUSE ME, SANTA FRED, BUT THE LAWYERS FOR MARVEL COMICS SUGGESTED THAT SEEING YOU WOULD SOLVE A BIG PROBLEM FOR ME!
MS. MARVEL!
oh, THAT'S GREAT!
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN GET ME A REGULAR ONGOING SERIES?
NO, I'M AFRAID THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
TOO MUCH TO HOPE FOR, I SUPPOSE.
HOW ABOUT A LIMITED SERIES?
SORRY.
A GRAPHIC NOVEL?
uh uh.
AVENGERS MEMBERSHIP?
FULL UP, I'M AFRAID.
A DATE WITH THE BEYONDER?!
HE'S BOOKED.
WELL, WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP ME?

 Fred Hembeck © 1985 Fred Hembeck.

AND SO HOW MIGHT THIS SAINT NICK LOOK-A-LIKE ASSIST THE BEAUTIFUL YOUNG WOMAN IN THE, ah, SKIN-TIGHT UNIFORM? HOW? huh? HOW?
WELL, KIND SIR, IT'S LIKE THIS...
...A NUMBER OF CHRISTMASES PAST-- 1976 TO BE EXACT, MARVEL COMICS BEGAN PUBLISHING THE ADVENTURES OF CAROL DANVERS, ALIAS MS. MARVEL. WHO AMONGST US COULD EVER FORGET HER SLOGAN, "THIS FEMALE FIGHTS BACK!"?
HE FIGHT HAD HARDLY BEGUN, HOWEVER. EN, AFTER 2 CHRISTMASES, 23 ISSUES AND ORN UNIFORMS, THE WORLD OF COMICS ROCKED WITH THE NEWS THAT HER BOOK BEEN choke & CANCELLED.
NG BACK, THIS FEMALE TOOK UP NCE IN THE AVENGERS, BECOMING A IN GOOD STANDING, AND INCIDENTALLY, G A HIGH LEVEL OF VISIBILITY IN THE CROWDED MARVEL UNIVERSE.
UNFORTUNATELY, CAROL THEN RAN INTO ROGUE, WHO PROMPTLY SIPHONED OFF HER POWERS. IN TURN, SHE BEGAN HANGING AROUND THE X-MEN, WITH WHOM SHE ENCOUNTERED THE ALIEN BROOD. THEY TRANSFORMED HER INTO HER CURRENT IDENTITY, BINARY, AND WHEN LAST SEEN, WAS FARING THE SPACEWAYS WITH THE STARJAMMERS.
THEN YOU'RE NOT CAROL?
NO, JUST A STAND-IN. I CAN'T REVEAL MY IDENTITY FOR FEAR OF CRIMINALS HARMING MY LOVED ONES TO GAIN THEIR REVENGE ON ME.
uh, RIGHT... SO WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?
WELL, DUE TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES I'VE OUTLINED, THE NAME AND GUISE OF MS. MARVEL HAVE BEEN IN DISUSE AS OF LATE. AND THE LEGAL STAFF AT MARVEL COMICS IS GETTING FRANTIC. THEY'RE AFRAID THEY'LL LOSE CUSTODIANSHIP OF THE NAME AND TRADEMARK IF SHE ISN'T UTILIZED SOMEWHERE WITHIN THEIR PAGES—AND QUICK! YOU CAN UNDERSTAND WHY MARVEL WOULDN'T WANT TO LOSE A CONCEPT AS DYNAMIC AS MS. MARVEL, DON'T YOU?
uh...
CAN YOU HELP ME?
I THINK SO. I HAVE INFLUENCE.
WHY, I'VE ALREADY DONE IT, MY DEAR!
huh?
THIS FUN FILLED APPEARANCE ON HEMBECK'S PAGE IN MARVEL AGE SHOULD KEEP THE LAWYERS HAPPY!
SCRIBING AL.
I'M SURE THAT WHEN MARVEL NEEDS YOU, THEY'LL LET YOU KNOW, BUT, uh, DON'T CALL THEM, I'M SURE THEY'LL CALL YOU!
HAVE A HAPPY HOLIDAY NOW!
HO HO HO! MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE, MER--
BROTHER VOODOO?!?!
SANTA FRED, I NEED YOUR HELP! MARVEL'S LEGAL STAFF SENT ME TO Y--
SALIGRUP, I DON'T CARE IF IT IS CHRISTMAS, GET THESE BUMS OUTTA HERE!
GEE, I SURE HOPE TWO PANELS IS ENOUGH...

THE RETURN OF FRANK MILLER

We tried to keep it a secret, but now the time has come! The word is out—soon everyone will know that **Frank Miller**, writer-artist supreme, is back!

Even though it seems like yesterday, it was more than five years ago that an unknown, twenty-year-old artist named Frank Miller left his native Vermont to come to Manhattan and try to find work in comics. With the help of artist **Neal Adams**, Frank broke into the field, and with the advice and encouragement of an accomplished comics writer named **Jim Shooter**, he soon found himself doing work for Marvel Comics!

Frank drew fill-in issues of numerous Marvel series, but it was a two-part story in PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN guest-starring **Daredevil** that was the turning point in his career. "After I did the story, they asked me what I wanted to do next and I said DAREDEVIL," Frank recalls. "At the time, everybody laughed because I was such a novice." But **Mary Jo Duffy**, who was then editing DAREDEVIL, and new Editor-in-Chief Jim Shooter didn't laugh. "I guess they thought the kid had potential," Frank says. Jo and Jim decided to take a chance on the young artist, and their gamble paid off!

It wasn't long before Frank's artwork began to draw rave reviews from fans and pros alike! Word of mouth helped Frank's reputation spread like wildfire! Most artists would have been happy with such phenomenal success, but not Frank. Not content with just *drawing* DAREDEVIL, he soon began *writing* the series as well!

During Frank's tenure on DAREDEVIL, the series went through major changes. **The Kingpin** became a constant presence and a cold, calculating figure. Daredevil's old foe, **the Gladiator**, reformed! **The Punisher** was imprisoned and escaped! Frank's use of ninjas and martial arts touched off a craze that would spawn imitators by the dozens! And even Daredevil himself was changed! To Frank, Daredevil was a man whose love of justice was so strong that he felt the ends towards which he was fighting justified the means he used, even if those means included making deals with the Kingpin himself! "I feel that generally, in comics, the writers tend to make it too easy for the heroes to be virtuous. Since virtue and character are defined by conflict, I set out to test Daredevil's virtue. So I put him in situations where he has to do bad things to achieve good things," Frank explains. "Daredevil was then, and is now, a fiercely moral man."

"At first, what I liked most about Daredevil was the way he related to the city, even moreso than **Spider-Man**," Frank says. "I was in love with the city. When I drew in my time off, I would draw New York!"

"I also have a rough time dealing with immensely powerful characters. I liked the idea that Daredevil's outstanding strength was an impairment—his blindness—rather than a power. He's a very vulnerable hero."

Soon, your local comics specialty shop will be carrying four new Marvel masterpieces from Frank Miller! Before you know it, there will be an all-new ELEKTRA graphic novel! And on the rack right beside it will be the ELEKTRA limited series from Epic Comics and the DAREDEVIL graphic novel, both written by Frank Miller and featuring artwork by none other than NEW MUTANTS artist **Bill Sienkiewicz**! Even more—Frank has joined artist **David Mazzucchelli** to bring you the monthly adventures of everyone's favorite Man Without Fear in DAREDEVIL!

When DAREDEVIL scripter **Denny O'Neil** left the book, its editor, **Ralph Macchio**, was faced with a problem. He needed to find a new writer, one who would not be overshadowed by the fine work Denny had done on the series. "I didn't expect him to accept, but the first person I called was Frank," Ralph recalls. "I asked him if he'd do it and he said he would. By the next day, he had already plotted the first issue and had outlined stories for the next year!" Frank explains the reasons for his acceptance of Ralph's offer this way: "Over the years I was away from the series, I still found myself thinking about Daredevil a lot. I rediscovered my affection for the character. It was like my first run on DAREDEVIL was the first two acts of a play and now it was time for the third."

After DAREDEVIL #226, which Denny and Frank are co-writing, the new act will begin. And it promises to be every bit as exciting and surprising as the first two! Daredevil's first girlfriend, **Karen Page**, will be back, but not the way you'd expect! **Foggy Nelson** and **Glorianna O'Breen** will be playing increasingly large and suprising roles! And Daredevil will be betrayed by one of his closest and most trusted friends! In fact, Frank has squeezed so much into his first story that it has been expanded from one to three issues! "It's a huge story," Frank says. "There's so much that happens!"

Beginning in DAREDEVIL #227, Frank's first story shows what happens when these developments begin to take a shocking toll on Daredevil! "I looked at the way Daredevil's become increasingly despondent and has picked up an edge of paranoia and realized that here was a man who was headed for a breakdown!" Frank explains. "I'll be bringing Daredevil's dark side into focus. Although I'll be taking what Denny's done and using it to

delineate the character, Daredevil's mental collapse can be traced back to my last issue, #191, and even to his personality flaws from issue number one!" Frank also stresses, "an enormously positive character will emerge from this."

Ralph Macchio remembers the conversation in which Frank proposed many of the changes coming up in DAREDEVIL. "Frank had a lot of ideas and seemed to be challenging me to say 'No,' but I said 'Yes.' At one point, he stopped and asked me why I was so willing!" One of the reasons Ralph agreed so readily came from the success with which **Walt Simonson** had recently revamped another of Ralph's series, THOR. Ralph finds this ironic since one of Walt's inspirations for making major changes in THOR was Frank's (Frank's old editor on DAREDEVIL) made a profound contribution to my work on DAREDEVIL, but never at the expense of my point of view or my feelings of who Matt is."

"Frank is a fount of ideas and Denny would guide him. Not stop him, but channel him in the right direction. Denny's editing has a lot to do with the way DAREDEVIL came out," Ralph recalls. He decided to edit Frank's work the same way that Denny had. "Frank's so good that he can work full script (writing dialogue and panel-by-panel descriptions of the art rather than writing a plot and then adding dialogue after the story is drawn) and I don't even *need* to see the full plot beforehand! I think Frank's got an even better handle on Daredevil today than he had when he was first on the series!"

to it, of the **Stan Lee-Gene Colan** DAREDEVIL. When I write the stories I write them like letters to David, throwing him problems. I have yet to see a panel in the DAREDEVILs we've done where David has failed to find an intelligent, dramatic solution, one that emphasizes the humanity of the scene. He's a very down-to-earth, expressive artist."

And David is equally happy for the opportunity to work with Frank. "Frank's willing to take enormous chances. I find that tremendously exciting!" David says. While he admires Frank's previous work on DAREDEVIL and other series, he is still being careful to draw DAREDEVIL in his own style. "When I first came on the series, I was very aware of the mark Frank had made and it was very much in my mind

original stint on DAREDEVIL!

One of the best things to come from the direct market explosion is that the 'hits' that have come along, like **Chris Claremont** and **John Byrne's** X-MEN work, show that the readers respond to the personal quality, and the personality, that results when a cartoonist or cartoonists develop and follow their own line of thought—put their own blood into a book." Frank feels. "Denny O'Neil

"Ralph's been a dream to work with," Frank says. "He's standing with me and we're taking the character the distance."

Frank is also happy to be working with artist David Mazzucchelli. "You'll be seeing David come on strong as one of the best artists in years," Frank says. "He's smart, energetic, and can draw better and more powerfully issue by issue! All the while, his work has a sense of joy

not to do the same thing he had done. After all, I could never do Frank Miller's DAREDEVIL as well as Frank Miller could. I culled what I could from the history of the book and made it my own."

"Sometimes as I'm reading a script, an image pops into my head of how Frank Miller would do it, and then I think about how David Mazzucchelli would do it."

Frank and David are working

closely on the series ("as closely as we can over the phone," David says) and they are influencing each other's styles. And this is causing both the characters and the nature of the series to evolve. "More than ever before, DAREDEVIL will be a *crime* comic book," Frank says. "The conflict between Daredevil and the Kingpin will be focused on more than ever before. The Kingpin will become as much a part of the series as Matt Murdock is!"

The Kingpin also plays a major role in the upcoming DAREDEVIL graphic novel written by Frank and painted by Bill Sienkiewicz. As longtime DAREDEVIL and SPIDER-MAN readers know, the Kingpin's wife, Vanessa, has been suffering from mental illness for some time now. Frank promises that the graphic novel will resolve this plotline once and for all.

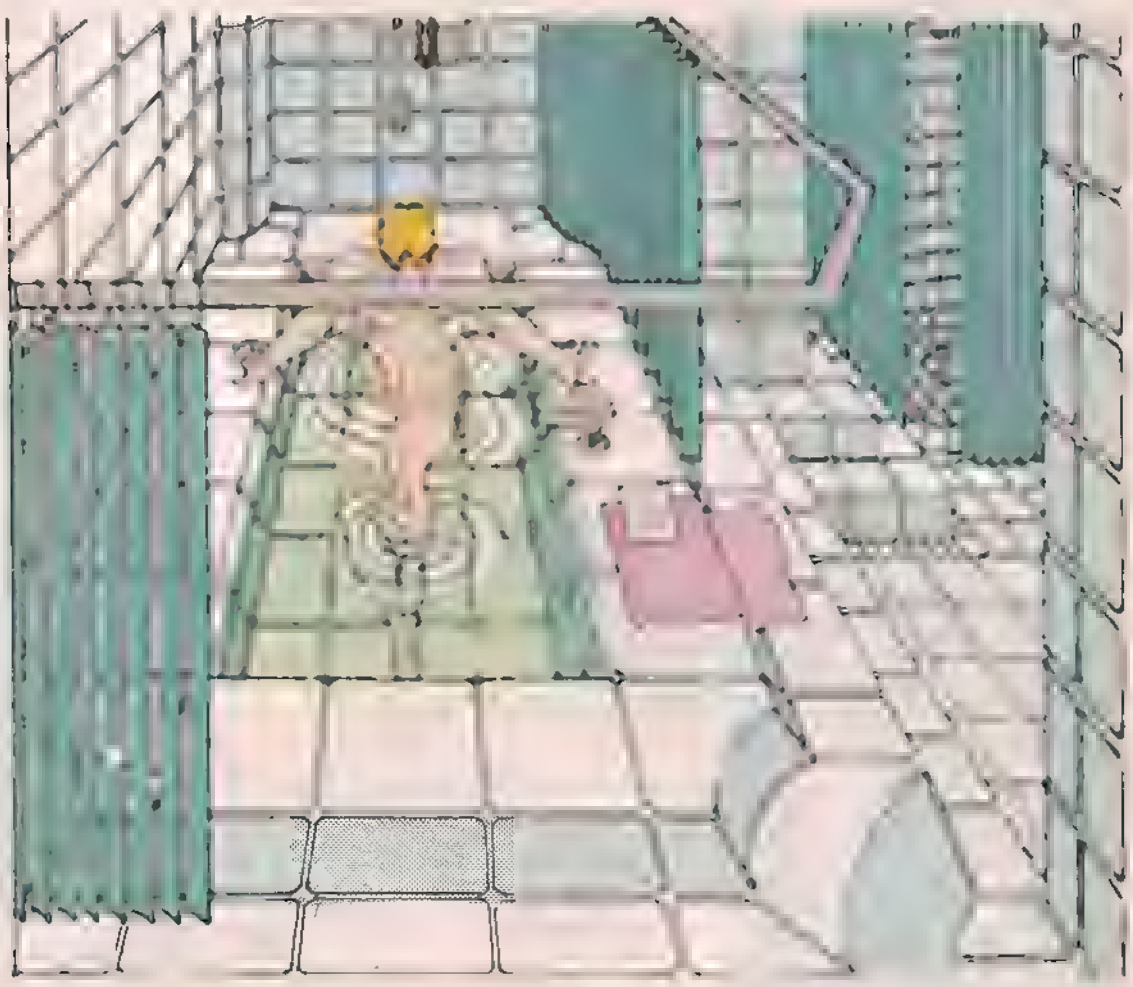
"The DAREDEVIL graphic novel is, mostly, a love story," Frank says. "For all the action in it, and there's tons—the pace is anything but slow, the heart of the story is the Kingpin's love for Vanessa and his struggle to restore her. She has been, from Stan Lee's stories on, his weak link. The Kingpin is the central villain in my DAREDEVIL stories, a powerful, relentless, evil force. Vanessa is his one love, his one virtue. Just as Daredevil is tortured by his own private weaknesses, his evils, so the Kingpin is tortured by the only good thing about himself. How far he will go to save her, and whether he will succeed, is explored in the graphic novel."

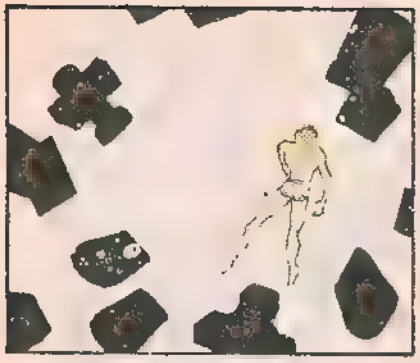
The graphic novel's third lead character is a surprise. "The other lead in the novel is a frightening, pathetic man, a paranoid schizophrenic who works for the Kingpin," Frank says. "Schizophrenia is a mental disease, a horrible, and horribly common, condition that destroys lives and deprives people of happiness. Most of the 'bag people,' the people you see talking to themselves and living like animals on the streets of not only the major cities of America, but its towns as well, are schizophrenics. Less common is the kind of schizophrenic you will meet in the DAREDEVIL graphic novel. He is a violent, out of control personality who could possibly have been cured, or at least treated, but like many victims of this misunderstood disease, the people who could help him are doing the worst things they could, making him, unnecessarily, a casualty of the disease. Writing this part of the novel is a difficult, terrifying job, requiring endless research, from medical texts to interviews with schizophrenia victims."

"I guess what makes me love this story is that while the three lead characters are seemingly as different as could be, the similarities between them, between a super hero, a crimelord, and a psychopath, are surprising and painful. The final version of the story, because of what has happened between Bill and me as we've worked on it, is much more than an action adventure. But an action adventure it is!"

As the graphic novel's editor, Al Milgrom, points out, though, "What makes it interesting is its execution and texture rather than the events in it. It's like hearing that CITIZEN KANE is about an orphan kid who grows up to be successful. You don't say, 'Oh, now I don't have to see it because I know how it ends.' Knowing what it's about doesn't ruin it." And now that Frank is writing the monthly DAREDEVIL series, the graphic novel will tie in to the comic book's current continuity.

Originally, the story had been intended for Daredevil's regular series. "I thought about what team would be really bizarre," Ralph Macchio says, "and I came up with Frank Mil-





ler and Bill Sienkiewicz. But the story got to be so big and outrageous that it had to be turned into a graphic novel!"

One of the things that Frank likes most about the graphic novel is that it has given him the chance to work with Bill Sienkiewicz. Frank and Bill have highly individual and very different styles. As Bill points out, "I go for a single large image. Frank's work is much more sequential—how one picture leads to another which leads to another." Mixing two such distinctive styles could have resulted in chaos. But it didn't, instead, it led to a perfect blending of their styles, each one's strengths complementing the other's! As Frank puts it, "Ralph approached Bill and me at the same time and it was as if he'd set off a nuclear warhead!"

Frank finds that "working with Bill is really freeing! It keeps presenting me with new challenges. I studied Bill's work and I saw that one of his greatest strengths is conveying inner states of mind—psychodrama. So I wrote my scripts to his strengths, and then he threw back this artwork which presented me with new challenges! It's like a game of volleyball that keeps getting faster and faster!"

Says Bill: "We're working full script and it's working out fine! I'll read Frank's script several times and then the germ of an idea will start to work back and forth between us. Sometimes, I'll alter things in the art to give sort of a point-counterpoint between what's shown and what's said. And sometimes, I'll make something obtuse or oblique to work to a greater effect. I'll make a change and then Frank will change what's written; nothing's engraved in stone."

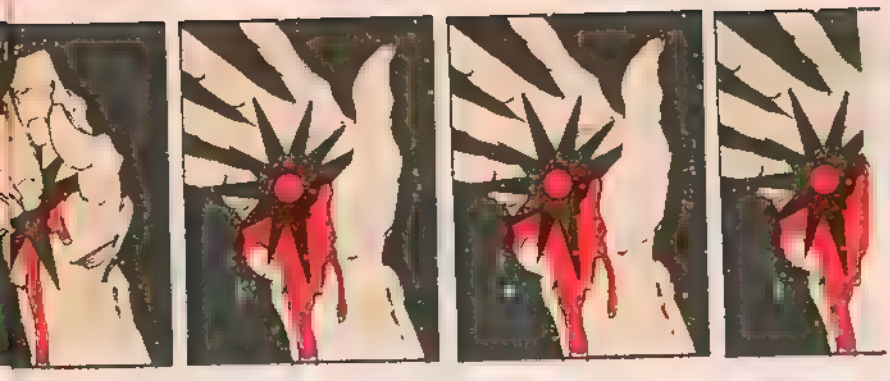
"Frank and Bill have an interesting working relationship," editor Al Milgrom agrees. "They're two of the most talented guys in the business and it's fascinating to see them together! Since they emphasize things a bit differently, the ideas and nuances in the graphic novel are constantly changing."

"Working with Bill has affected my own drawing. He shows a sensitivity alien to mine," Frank says. "It's one of the great things that's happened to my work!"

Frank's artwork will be back again in the upcoming ELEKTRA: ACT OF LOVE graphic novel. You probably already know that Elektra Natchios had been Matt Murdock's college sweetheart, and that when her father was killed by criminals, Elektra was filled with pain and hatred. She sought out and trained under two different groups of ninjas and became one of the deadliest assassins on Earth! It took death and resurrection to finally cleanse Elektra of her pain and hatred.

But what happened next? The ELEKTRA graphic novel will provide the answer.

As the novel opens, Matt Murdock



has been plagued by nightmares and pieces of evidence that suggest that Elektra is back, even though he knows that she *should* be dead! Meanwhile, Elektra has been active on her own, which merely adds to Matt's confusion!

"This is going to be the final chapter in the Elektra saga—at least for now," editor Al Milgrom laughs. "Originally, Daredevil wasn't going to appear in it at all; it was going to be all Matt Murdock. But I had thought that it just wasn't fair, because while insiders would understand all of these oblique references to Matt's hyper-senses, no one else would. And since we danced all around Matt's being more than he seemed, I thought it cried out for more. Eventually, when Frank was about halfway through the novel, he decided that I'd had a decent idea after all! So Matt will appear as Daredevil in the second half of the novel."

Frank is also excited about having the chance to work once more with colorist **Lynn Varley**, whom he describes as "an innovator in the field." He points out that "with all the changes in the format of comics, we cartoonists have to adapt our work, to take better advantage of what can be done. It's a lot like when sound came to the movies. Now in comics, comics on white paper with better printing, color has become very, very important. Lynn's work has changed the way people think about color in comics, what it can do. In ELEKTRA: ACT OF LOVE, Lynn does things she's never done before. You'll have to see it to believe it!"

Although, as mentioned above, Daredevil will be appearing in the ELEKTRA graphic novel, Frank is determined to separate the two characters. He feels that Elektra has become too closely associated with Daredevil and he wants to show that she can stand on her own.

This is one of the motivations behind Frank's exciting new ELEKTRA limited series, coming soon from Epic Comics. The eight-issue series will be printed on glossy paper and sold for $1.50 through comics specialty stores. In contrast to the ELEKTRA graphic novel, the series will concentrate on filling in some of the gaps in Elektra's past. Set in the period between Elektra's involvement with the Hand and her first appearance in DAREDEVIL, the ELEKTRA limited series will revolve around Elektra's conflict with the superspy network S.H.I.E.L.D. and her relationship with one agent, **Garrett**, in particular. And like the DAREDEVIL graphic novel, the ELEKTRA series will feature the amazing new team of Frank Miller and Bill Sienkiewicz!

By this point, it should come as no surprise to learn that everyone involved in the project is extremely enthusiastic about it! "I'm very excited! It's going to be a good, solid adventure series,' says Jo Duffy, the series' editor. "It's extremely intelligently scripted and Bill's been taking a new approach to the artwork. Every script and every page Bill draws is a pleasant surprise!"

Bill's new approach involves his using a variety of artistic forms and styles to produce ELEKTRA. Both in ELEKTRA and the DAREDEVIL graphic novel, Bill says, "parts will be painted and parts will be cut paper. Part will be painted in oil and part in acrylic. I'm trying to find ways to get effects I couldn't get otherwise."

Frank is thrilled with Bill's work on the ELEKTRA series, and thinks it may just be his best work to date! Considering the quality of Bill's work on the original MOON KNIGHT series and THE NEW MUTANTS, that's saying a lot! "Bill's new work will startle you," Frank says. "He's taken leaps beyond anything he's done before! Brace yourself!"

Frank can't talk yet about the plans he's now formulating for other new projects, but it's clear that he is very excited about the current work he's doing! And everyone else is too!

So how do the people at Marvel feel about Frank Miller's return? Jo Duffy may have put it best: "As far as I'm concerned, he never left."

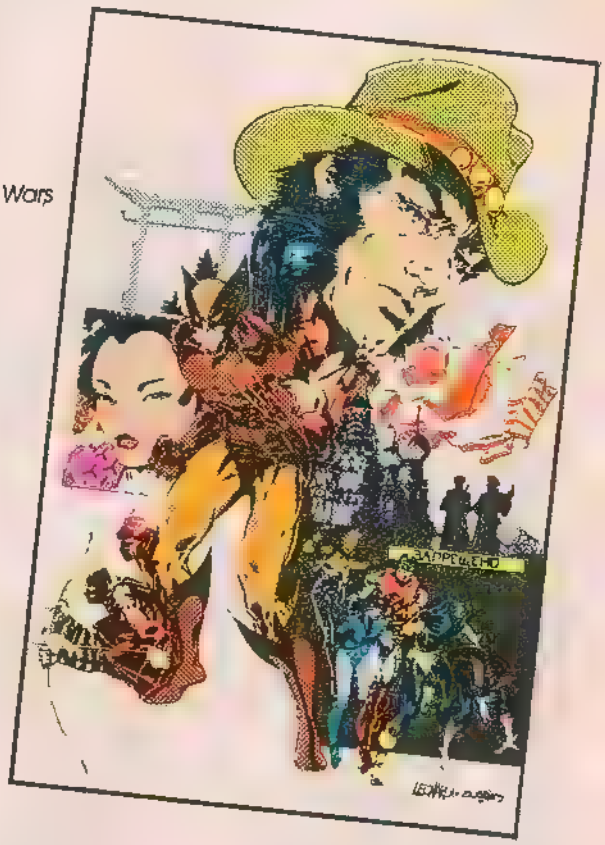
—*Shelly Fisch*

GIFTS FOR A MARVELOUS CHRISTMAS

It's the night before Christmas and you're running around the house; if you don't come up with some gift ideas soon, you're gonna feel like a louse!

Sound familiar to you? Do you have problems every holiday season trying to decide what to get for your Marvel Comics-reading friends and loved ones? Well, have no fear. We're here to give you some ideas so that the old guy in the red suit won't come down the chimney empty-handed. (No, not Spider-Man! Pay attention here!)

We've compiled a list of nifty items that will make neat and thoughtful presents this Yuletide season. They're wonderful ideas for gift-giving to your favorite Marvelites and they make pretty good hints for your own gift-*getting* list, too!



Posters were hung from the mantle with care; Wolverine, Secret Wars and Phoenix are there!

Everybody likes posters. And when the posters are beautiful works of art by your favorite Marvel creators, then the thrill is even greater! Marvel has a number of posters coming out this season for your gift-giving pleasure.

A **Warren Kremer** STAR COMICS poster starts the set, followed by a powerful rendition of WOLVERINE by **Rick Leonardi** and **Terry Austin**. The ALIEN LEGION by **Frank Cirocco** and SECRET WARS II by **Ron Wilson** and **Steve Leialoha** round out this awesome set that will add class and excitement to even the dullest wall.

A second set, headlined by **Leonardi** and **Austin's** version of PHOENIX and featuring three more suitable-for-framing surprises, will be available at fine comic specialty shops everywhere this Christmas.

Marvelites everywhere are snug in their beds, and visions of pulse-pounding covers dance in their heads!

So you're still stuck for an idea, huh? So you say all your friends already have the newest posters, do you? Then take a look at Mayfair Games, Inc. special entry into the holiday season grab bag. It's the 1986 MARVEL SUPER HEROES CALENDAR! The calendar is the best way to show your friendship throughout the year. It's chock full of 12 exciting covers from Marvel's 25 year history and is a great way to get into that terrific celebration as well.

The brand new calendar features such full color reproductions of such famous Marvel covers as GIANT-SIZE X-MEN #1, NEW MUTANTS #1, ALPHA FLIGHT #1, SECRET WARS #1, and eight more! There are also hundreds of fascinating facts to keep your friends knowledgeable about the Marvel Universe. Another special feature is the "Thug of the Month." All in all, it's a year's worth of fun in one terrific gift.

And what do your present-filled eyes see appear, but loads of little kids dressed in Marvel-type cheer!

What can you get for all the younger Marvelites on your holiday list? Major retail outlets everywhere will be carrying full lines of children's apparel, shoes, caps, lunch boxes, and more things than you can shake a super villain at! Just take a look in your favorite department store for any number of amazing gifts for the younger set. There's just too much in this area to try to list, so to be fair we'll just let you know that there's a lot out there in shirts, stationery, etc. Check it out.

With Christmas so close and presents still to buy, have you thought to give your local comics specialty shop a try?

A great source for comics related gift items is your neighborhood comic specialty shop. That's right, the place you visit every week to pick up the newest in Marvel myth-making is also a virtual treasure chest of Marvel related gift items. And one of the biggest companies providing such items is Comic Images, Inc.

Available in time for Christmas is an entire wardrobe full of T-shirts from Comic Images, Inc. Imagine the looks of elation when your friends open their packages on Christmas morning and are greeted by THOR, a two-sided DAREDEVIL shirt, or a DOCTOR STRANGE blue T-shirt? Or how about HERCULES, THING, or WOLVERINE designer wear? They're what the best dressed Marvel readers will be wearing this Christmas.

But wait! There's more! Patches make great stocking stuffers and Comic Images has some great ones ready for the holidays. COLOSSUS, BOX, SILVER SURFER, CAPTAIN MARVEL, HUMAN TORCH and WOLFSBANE in action poses are snazzy additions to jackets, caps, or almost anything that can be patched.

How would you like to get a bumper sticker for a friend's vehicle? Comic Images has four new ones to choose from including messages related to SPIDER-MAN and CLOAK AND DAGGER, and a little ditty that says it all, "I'd Rather Be Reading Comics."

Is that *special* Christmas gift still eluding you? Then check out Comic Images' nifty pens featuring ALPHA FLIGHT, HULK and SECRET WARS. Or maybe sharp, stylish buttons featuring a friend's favorite Marvel hero is in order? There're 10 to choose from including GARGOYLE, MAGIK and MOONKNIGHT.

And for your best Marvelite buddies, Comic Images is bringing you its Wall Hangings Signature Series. The four cloth hangings come with rod and string and are the ultimate in comic art expression. There's MOONKNIGHT by **Mike Kaluta**, **Tom Palmer's** AVENGERS, the ever-popular SECRET WARS by **Mike Zeck**, and **Bob Hall's** WEST COAST AVENGERS.

You awoke from your bed when you heard such a clatter, little Marvel Super Heroes were under the tree making bad guys scatter!

New from Adventure International is the fourth in their Questprobe series, this time featuring **The Thing** and **The Human Torch**. This Marvel tie-in game allows you to use the powers of half the Fantastic Four in your quest, while you avoid the **Chief Examiner's** traps.

Perhaps the best gift to give this holiday season is one that lets your friends relive their favorite hero's greatest adventures and create new ones of their own. TSR, the producers of the Dungeons & Dragons games, has the now famous MARVEL SUPER HEROES ROLE PLAYING GAME. If there's anyone on your gift list that still doesn't have this game of action and imagination, it would make a wonderful surprise for Christmas. And if they already have the basic rules set, there are modules, accessories, and minature figures galore to add to their collections. TSR has a crop of new accessories coming your way in time for Christmas.

Among the new accessories for the MARVEL ROLE PLAYING GAME is CONCRETE JUNGLE by **Jeff Grubb**. This special module is full of new good guys and bad guys that make New York the place to be for great adventures. More than 50 of them are featured and fully detailed in this 32 page accessory that describes the people who prowl Manhattan. Included is everything you always wanted to know about **Spider-Man** and his greatest enemies. Also on hand are **Punisher, Black Widow, Daredevil, Elektra, White Tiger** and more!

Another entry in time for the holiday rush is FAULTLINE by **Kim Eastland**. This one features Spider-Man and **the Avengers** working to unravel a cryptic clue before the eastern seaboard is destroyed. A mighty module if ever there was one!

Want still more in the way of accessories? Then WEAPONS LOCKER by Jeff Grub and **Jerry Eperson** is for you. It's a cornucopia of weapons for the good guys and the bad guys, and they all come out of the fabulous Marvel Universe.

Also on hand is a module starring the increasingly popular omnipotent one from beyond, the **Beyonder**, in SECRET WARS II. It also features just about everyone so it promises to be as much of a treat as the comic series that has everybody talking.

After that, the people over at TSR would like to know what you'd like to see in the way of modules and accessories. Start thinking and get ready to send your ideas to Jeff Grubb, P.O. Box 756, Lake Geneva, WI 53147.

So there you have it, enough gifts to make any Christmas list special! Check it twice, make sure everyone on it has been nice, then go out there and get them before it's too late. And while you're at it, you should have gotten a couple ideas about what you might want this Christmas as well. Happy holidays!

And as the Gift Ideas Giver rose out of sight, he was heard to say "Marvel Christmas to all and to all, gift givings's all right!"

—Bill Slavicsek

THE MARVEL AGE

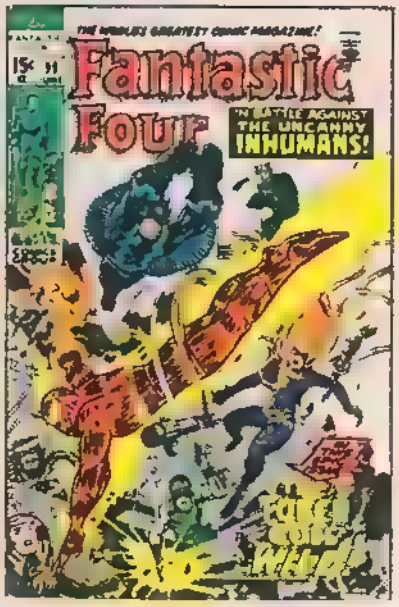
Last time around, we began to unfold the panorama of Marvel history for 1970, covering the debuts of the new double feature books, **AMAZING ADVENTURES** and **ASTONISHING TALES**, as well as the continuing adventures of **THE AVENGERS, CAPTAIN AMERICA, DAREDEVIL** and the first few tales of **CONAN THE BARBARIAN**. The story continues here, with more of Marvel's most prestigous titles.

THE FANTASTIC FOUR met some of their oldest foes in 1970, and also weathered some big shakeups. They started off by finally naming baby **Franklin Richards**, who was starting to think his name was "hey, you!", and set out to find a nanny who could take care of him if the team was called away on any emergencies. While they searched, however, **the Frightful Four** planned to attack! The nanny they chose was **Agatha Harkness**, of course, who still professes a love of children in recent issues of **THE VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH**. At that time, though, no one knew that she was a witch—that is, until she beat **the Frightful Four**, with a little help from **Medusa**, who was playing along with them in order to help **the Fantastic Four**. **The Mad Thinker** was the next to strike! He planned to replace **the FF**, member by member, with android duplicates! But he hadn't reckoned with the might of **Mr. Fantastic**, who beat his android double and revived his teammates. **Johnny Storm** took a trip to the Great Refuge, where **Crystal** had unexpectedly run off. **Johnny**'s anger was such that he couldn't listen to reason, and ended up in a fight with the entire Royal Family! As it happened, **Crystal** only went home to save the life of **Black Bolt**, who had been stricken by an almost deadly affliction. The young couple kissed and made up, and all was right again—for the moment! In the **FF**'s big hundredth issue, they met virtually every villain they'd ever fought—and some they hadn't, as well. They were in fact androids made in tandem by the revenge driven **Mad Thinker** and **Puppet Master**. But the one thing they didn't count on was that their **Hulk** android might be a little too much like the real jade giant! It went berserk, and destroyed the villains' lab, inadvertantly saving our heroes' lives! The last major story of the year was a three part epic which started off with **the Sub-Mariner** saving the life of **Magneto**. The master of magnetism talked **Namor** into an alliance, based on the fact that neither of them were trusted by mankind. **Namor** and his troops prepared to attack the surface world, while **Magneto** betrayed him! **Magneto** captured both **Sue Richards** and the **Lady Dorma** while **the FF** and **Namor** fought. The Prince of Atlantis and the team supreme were forced into an uneasy alliance, as **Magneto** used the lives of the two women to force **Namor** to conquer the surface world for him, while the **FF** couldn't interfere! **Namor** and **the Torch** freed the two women, however, while **Reed** imprisoned **Magneto** in a cone of force that fed off his magnetic might! **Namor** returned to the sea, even more embittered against the surface world. The other big shakeup of the year was an artistic one. The first chapter of the three part **Namor-Magneto** epic was **Jack Kirby**'s last issue of the **FANTASTIC FOUR**. He had drawn every one of the previous 101 issues, as well as all the annuals and specials. Fortunately, **Johnny Romita**'s able hands were ready to take over, and his version of the team was well received. It was more subtle than Jack's had been, but also fit into the **FF**'s tradition of great storytelling!

SILVER SURFER
15¢
16
MAY
THE MIGHTIEST SUPERHERO OF ALL!
THE SILVER SURFER
SEE THE YEARS MOST UNEXPECTED ENDING!
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
SEE! MIND-STAGGERING SUPER POWER UNLEASHED ON THE STREETS OF NEW YORK!
SEE! MEPHISTO AS HE WINS AT LAST!

Meanwhile, over in **THE HULK**, **Reed Richards** had cured **Bruce Banner** of his curse, and **Banner** found that he could now become **the Hulk** at will and still retain his intelligence. His rampages a thing of the past, **Banner** felt free to finally ask **Betty Ross** For her hand in marriage. She said yes—but when her father, **General "Thunderbolt" Ross** asked **Bruce** to become **the Hulk** and guard the deadly Murder Module, their marriage plans had to be postponed. **The Hulk's** deadliest enemy, **the Leader**, attempted to steal the Module, but was stopped by the jade giant, who could barely keep from killing **the Leader**. After this battle, **Bruce** swore never to become **the Hulk** again. He would have kept his word, if not for the gamma blast that struck him when **the Leader** and **the Rhino** attacked him just before his wedding! The blast also undid all of **Reed Richards'** efforts, as **the Hulk** was once again a savage beast! After reverting to human form again, **Bruce** volunteered to man a space craft which would carry a warhead to a comet that was threatening the Earth's safety. The mission was successful, but when **Bruce** returned to Earth, so did **the Absorbing Man**, whose only thoughts were of a rematch with his old nemesis, **Thor**. First, though, he and **the Hulk** clashed—**the Absorbing Man** made use of **the Hulk's** might, but was defeated when **the Hulk** unexpectedly reverted to his human form, thus eliminating the source of **the Absorbing Man's** power. Later in the year **the Hulk** had his first meeting with his new friend, teenager **Jim Wilson**, in a crumbling Los Angeles tenement, while the invincible **Iron Man** searched for **the Hulk**, who had been physically seperated from his **Bruce Banner** alter ego in a dangerous attempt to cure him. With **Jim's** help, the two were reunited, but **Jim** was soon manipulated into helping Hydra capture **the Hulk**, who intended the use **the Hulk** as a weapon. After escaping their evil clutches, **the Hulk** stowed away on board a ship which brought him to Europe, and more adventure!

Iron Man spent 1970 in a morass of ruined romances and friendships. He started off by handing over his armor to prizefighter **Eddie March**, who had been forced into retirement due to a potentially fatal bloodclot. **Tony** didn't know this at the time, though, and **Eddie** wound up in battle with **the Crimson Dynamo**. **Tony** came to the rescue, but it was too late to save **Eddie**. This all lead to a three way battle between **Iron Man**, **the Crimson Dynamo** and **the Titanium Man**—a battle which culminated in the death of **Janice Cord**, the woman who both **Tony** and **the Crimson Dynamo** loved! Then, a rivalry between the Golden Avenger and S.H.I.E.L.D. agent **Jasper Sitwell** was kicked off when **Jasper** went on a mission to find out whether **Whitney Frost** was still alive. **Iron Man** was the one who found her, and made **Jasper's** efforts seem wasted. As **Tony Stark**, **Iron Man** had a falling out with **the Sub-Mariner**, whose undersea domain was being polluted by a Stark Industries plant. **The Controller** soon returned in scripter **Archie Goodwin's** last story until the late 1970's. The story also showed the growing rivalry between **Jasper Sitwell**, who had been appointed **Tony Stark's** bodyguard by the government, and **Iron Man**, who had posed as **Stark's** "bodyguard" all along to protect his secret identity. **The Controller** had taken over Pinewood Sanitarium, where he had been convalescing, and also where **Tony's** high school sweetheart **Meredith McCall** had been working. While **Tony** managed to stop **the Controller**, he couldn't do anything about the fact that he could never go back to his relationship with **Meredith**, because she had gotten married. Later in the year, **Kevin O'Brian** was introduced into the cast. He helped save a Stark



Industries plant on a Pacific island from destruction. **Kevin** would go on to become a tragic figure in the story of **Iron Man**, but not in 1970.

1970 saw **Sgt. Fury** on the move and in the thick of World War II! In a special flashback story, we learned that **Nick Fury's** father, **Jack Fury**, had been an American pilot in World War I, and had actually flown against **Baron Von Richtofen**...**the Red Baron**! **The Howlers** also had to face the fact that one of them was a deserter, and clear **Eric Koenig** of charges that he was a traitor. As it happened, he had defected to the Germans in a ploy to gather information on their plans, and **the Howlers** ended up having to save him. **The Howlers** concluded their year with a free for all on the American home front!

The Silver Surfer met some of Marvel's mainstays in 1970, starting with **the Abomination**, when a group of occultists caught **the Surfer** and conjured **the Abomination** out of the void. They couldn't control **the Abomination**, though, and he went out on a rampage! **The Surfer** broke free of the group's control as well, and put an end to the monster's madness! Soon after, **the Surfer** splashed down into New York Harbor, after failing to break through **Galactus'** barrier. **Spider-Man** happened to see him, and decided that the cosmic being was a threat to the city, and so tried to catch him! Naturally, **Spidey** wasn't aware of **the Surfer's** great power, and **the Surfer** took it easy on him. Their fight ended abruptly when a young boy got caught in the middle—**the Surfer** kept him from harm, and **Spidey** turned away in shame. This contact with humanity merely piqued the sky rider's curiosity, though. He decided to walk among men again, and sought **the Fantastic Four's** help in the matter. Unfortunately, he picked the very afternoon that the US Army asked **the FF** to help catch **the Surfer**! **The Human Torch** and **the Surfer** were soon caught up in an airborne battle, which ended when **the Surfer** almost caused **Johnny's** death! Once again, **the Surfer** flew away, confused and hurt by mankind and his own weakness. As if things weren't bad enough, **Mephisto** then returned! He had taken **Shalla Bal** prisoner, and the only way **the Surfer** could save his beloved was to destroy **S.H.I.E.L.D.** Obviously, **the Surfer** didn't go through with it, and **Mephisto** sent **Shalla Bal** back to **Zenn La**, and left **the Surfer** tormented with doubt and anguish! After a brief encounter with **the Inhumans**, **the Surfer's** series was cancelled, but he continues to be a vital member of the Marvel Universe appearing frequently in books such as THE FANTASTIC FOUR

Next: Our last look at 1970 Includes **Spider-Man**, **the Sub-Mariner**, **Thor**, **the Uncanny X-Men**, and more thrills and excitement than you can shake a stick at! Be here!

—Richard Bensam

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M.A.I.L

Marvel Age Incoming Mail

Send your letters to **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE**, c/o Marvel Comics Group, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, New York, 10016

Here we are, with a new batch of letters, a new title, and three pages to fill! Let's get to it, shall we?

Before getting into the letters, we'd like to reveal that the stunning title above is the creation of *Duane Jashensay* (hope we spelled your name right, *Duane*—it was a little hard to read) of Lafayette, Indiana. Our thanks, *Duane*, it looks real nifty.

And hey, anyone else out there who's got a suggestion for our letters page title should feel free to send it in! That's the only way we're going to be able to run it atop this page, right?

Dear **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE**,

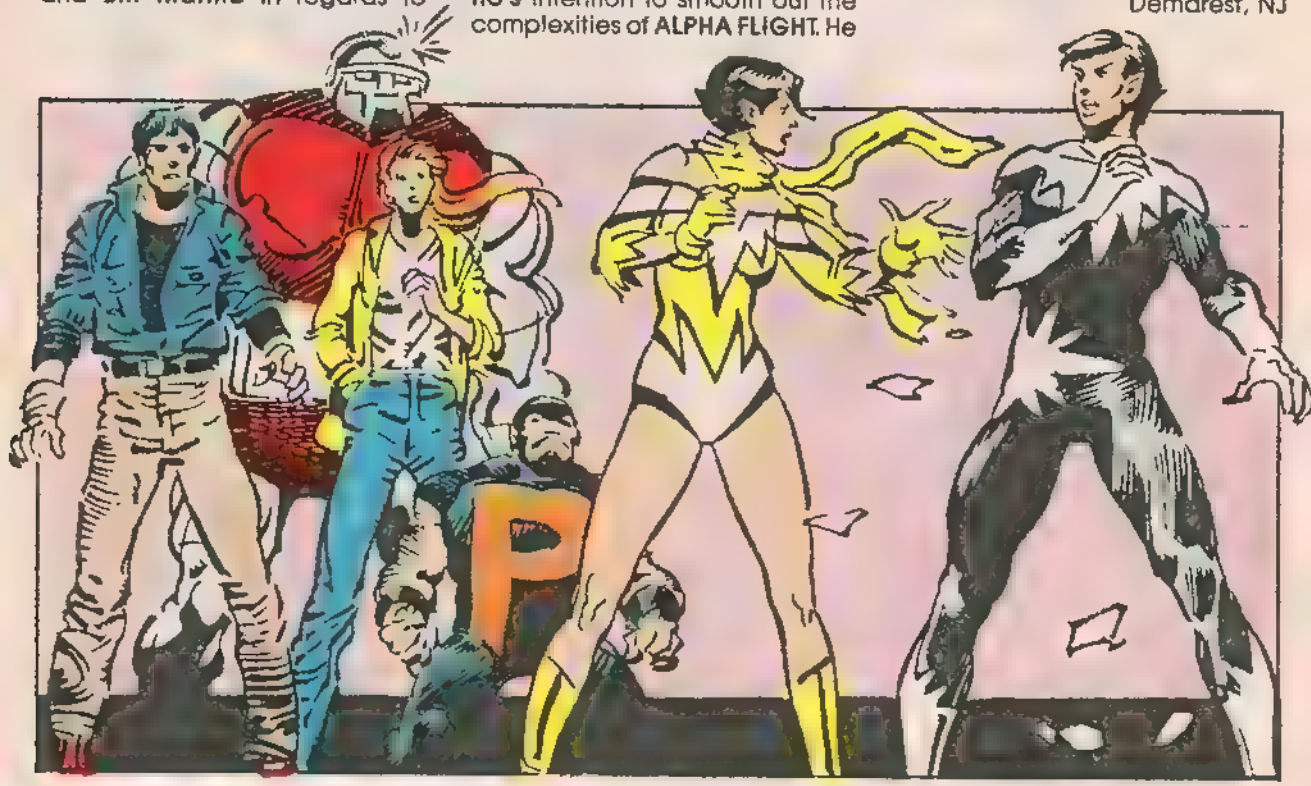
Thank you for your two enlightening articles on **John Byrne** and **Bill Mantlo** in regards to **ALPHA FLIGHT**. Both articles resolved any "mysteries" and "uncertainties" on the future of **Alpha Flight** and the current standing of its members. My mind can rest . . . for now.

It is very sad to see **John Byrne** leave the comic he created. Each issue brought excitement and growing impatience when I had to wait another 30 days. Such devotion! Such hysteria! When everything would seem to fall into the normal mold of comicdom, **Byrne** would add twists and turns by use of death, personal problems, more death, new members, etc. Heck, I have an **Alpha Flight** T-shirt that was obsolete a month after I first wore it, because half the **Flight** members are gone! Anyway, I wish **Mr. Byrne** good **Hulk**.

I'm also happy to hear **Mantlo's** intention to smooth out the complexities of **ALPHA FLIGHT**. He will focus on the personalities of **Alpha Flight** and at the same time bring cohesion to them. Another thing, I'm happy to hear that **Mantlo** will bring **Alpha Flight** into the "global forefront" (big name, isn't it?). It will be interesting to see how Canadians are affected by the outside world and how they are caught in the bind of the superpowers. (If you like suggestions, **Bill**, I suggest you listen to the song "Distant Early Warning" by **Rush**. The song seems to discuss international issues from a Canadian perspective. It is from their last album, *Grace Under Pressure*.)

Best wishes to **John** and **Bill**—and when the new **Alpha Flight** T-shirt comes out, I hope I'll be able to wear it for at least six months.

Robert Alfonso
Demarest, NJ



With any luck, *Robert*, you will. But we're making no promises ... to guarantee what's ahead for the Northern Stars would take all the fun out of it.

And now, what has to be our "*Wolverine's* Bones" question this month:

Dear Marvel,

I think that **Wolverine** should have another Limited Series, but this time revealing his shrouded past. Here are several questions that have me puzzled:

1) Who were his parents?

2) Does **Logan** have a last name?

3) Does **Logan** have other relatives that he doesn't know about (besides his foster daughter **Akiko** and his wife-to-be **Mariko**)?

4) Who was **Ogūn**? Who did **Logan** come to know **Ogūn**? Why was **Ogun** important in **Wolverine**'s past?

5) Who were the people or the man who gave him the adamantium reinforced skeleton? And why?

6) Why was **Wolverine** found barely alive in the forests of the Canadian Rockies?

7) What transpired in Canada that caused **Logan** to almost ose his sanity and fall into shock? Plus, what was he doing in Canada?

8) How did he come to know the Japanese language and customs so well?

9) Will he confront his mysterious past in the future?

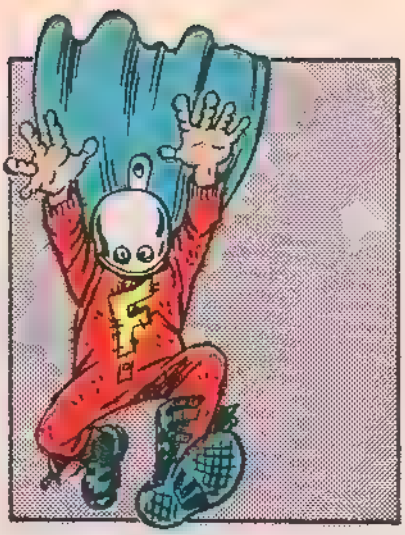
I hope I didn't leave anything out

A. Isidorio Rodriguez
1500-165th Ave.
San Leandro, CA 94578

We hope not, too! That's a lot of questions, and we can't answer any of 'em! Actually we got a few other requests this month for a *WOLVERINE Limited Series* detailing his origin — including a request for a *WOLVERINE'S BONES Limited Series* from *Mark Breit* of Halifax, South Carolina (but we have reason to believe *Mark* wasn't totally serious). So everyone who wrote in can consider their requests officially passed on to *Chris Claremont* and the *X-MEN* office. What comes next is up to them.

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

I've been collecting comic books for at least three months, and I still have some questions to



ask (could you believe that?)

A) What does it mean when you guys say, "Nuff Said?"

B) Can the She-Hulk turn back to human form?

C) What is Epic?

And last but not least...

D) Who's that little character that's always appearing on the corner of the cover and in the calendar? You know — the one with the red long-johns, blue cape and boots, with a pot on his head and with a letter "F" on his whole front side?!

Andres Pereira
5017 El Claco Circle
West Palm Beach, FL 33409

Only too happy to answer a new collector's questions, *Andres!* Here goes:

A) It's short for "Enough said,' indicating that it's time to shut up and get on with it (whatever "it" might be).

B) Not any more, *Andres*. She used to be able to, but all that's changed as of our brand new *SHE-HULK Graphic Novel*.

C) Epic is the imprint under which our creator-owned series (like *DREADSTAR, GROO* and *ELFQUEST*) appear. Some Epic Comics are printed on Baxter paper and available through direct-sales outlets only, and a few are printed on Mando paper and available everywhere. They're listed in the Coming Attractions with the tag-line "An Epic Comic."

D) That's *Forbush-Man*. Secretly *Irving Forbush*, he's been Marvel's mascot since the middle Sixties, and began appearing in costume in a humor mag called *NOT BRAND ECCH*. Nowadays, *MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE* is his home turf, but he represents Marvel's commitment to fun and thrills!

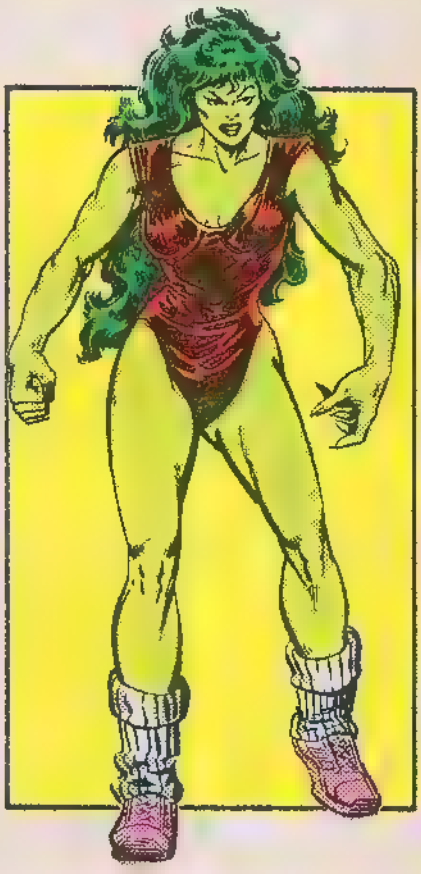
So how do you like comics collecting, now that you've been at it a while?

Dear Marvel editors, writers and artists,

A letter in issue #40 of **DAZZLER** suggests that the **Beyonder** use his power to end mutant hysteria. That would be nice, for mutant hysteria is an ugly thing. But would it be right? For one thing, it goes against everything we believe in a democratic and 'free' society, that is, the freedom to make our own choices and not be manipulated into following a cause (right or wrong) without knowing all the facts.

For another, I have been reading Marvel comics for about twenty years, and over the years have seen you deal with a variety of social issues. Your heroes have their foibles, but there is an undercurrent of ethical decency that pervades all your heroes, and even some of your villains. In fact, your characters reflect the fact that there are no cut and dried, black and white issues, but a grey area where the heroes can be wrong and the bad guys turn out to be okay from time to time

Sure, it would be easy to have the *Big B* fix things, but since Marvel comics reflect life on a fundamental level, as it really is, it would just be an easy way out of a problem that has no easy solutions, in the Marvel Universe or ours.



Perhaps by showing how ugly the hatred of mutant people by 'normal' people really is, Marvel comics can not only reflect the real world, but effect some change in it as well.

Keep up the good work, ~~guys gals~~ people (parity, even in semantics, isn't easy).

And lest I forget — your comics are a whole lot of fun to read, too!

Craig Miles
35148 Ford Rd.
Westland, MI 48185

What can we say to that but thanks. Thanks for a well thought-out, heartfelt letter, and for the kind words. We'll do our best to live up to them.

Hey Guys,

I have a question that I must have answered. What happened to Morbius after he was cured? I have to know, soon!

Corey Waschell
Issaquah, W.A.

Well, if you gotta know, you gotta know. Keep an eye on *THE WEST COAST AVENGERS*, and your question will be answered. *Werewolf by Night* fans might want to take that as a gentle hint, too.

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

Please listen to me, I'm serious about this. How about a Limited Series with **THE YASHIDA CLAN**? You know — **Mariko, Sunfire, Silver Samurai, Wolverine** (even if he isn't one of them yet) and plenty of ninjas. have some super villain whisk 'em to Monster Island (*the* Monster Island), and put up a barrier so they can't get off.

Leslie Gray
Lubbock, TX

Monster Island? You mean, with *Godzilla* and *Gammera* and *Gidra the Three-Headed Monster* and *Mothra* and all those guys? Well, *Leslie*, that's not very likely. You see, we'd have to make special legal arrangements to use all those monster characters (despite the fact that we used to publish a *GODZILLA* comic, we don't own the rights to him), and that could get way too complicated. But we'll pass your letter on to *Chris* and *Ann* anyhow. We think it sounds like a lot of fun!

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE people,

As if it weren't bad enough that we New Wavers get beat up and spat upon at school, now even some of our fellow Marvel fans are picking on us.

I think it's great that certain heroes are getting their hair "chopped off." After all, it's popular and "in" right now. Besides, during the Seventies we were assaulted with long-haired rocker weirdos in the comics. **Kiss**, even **Alice Cooper** invaded Marvel's pages. Well, they're "out" now and new wave is "in." The rockers had their chance. So in the words of **John Speaker's** letter in #30: "Fair is fair."

Frankie
Somewhere in Hollywood

Dear Marvel Agers:

You have to do something about **Al Milgrom** of SECRET WARS II. He keeps drawing his picture in it. Who does he think he is, **Alfred Hitchcock**? Look for yourself, in SECRET WARS II #2 page 18 panel 2, and SECRET WARS II #3 page 18 panel 4 (right next to the **Beyonder's** right thumb).

Also, how about having a **RAMBO FIRST BLOOD PART II Limited Series** or even a series of adventures?

David Tullock
Left His Address Off The Letter

Not to mention that — but just look at the cover of *MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #27*, our *SECRET WARS II* issue! Who does that *Al Milgrom* think he is? We'll give him a piece of our minds! *Al? Al?* Hey *Al* — wake up!

Oops. It was just a picture of himself he drew in the Marvel Bullpen. He just draws himself everywhere, doesn't he?

Dear Jim Shooter,

My friend and I have an idea for a new Limited Series. Entitled **MARVEL SUPER ANIMALS IMAGINARY WARS**, this series is related to the famous **MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS** but with animal heroes and villains.

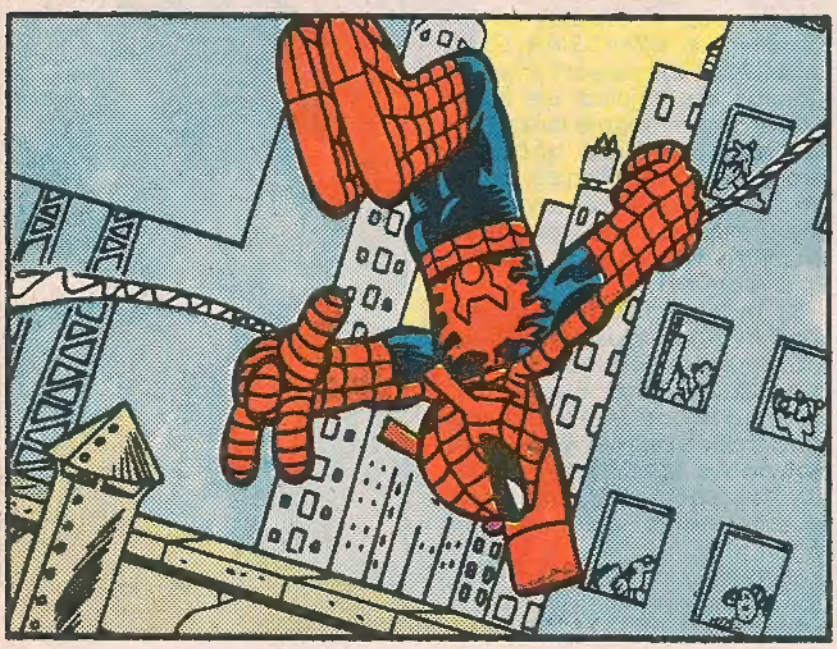
You could use characters such as **Spider-Ham, Goose Rider, Croctor Strange, Iron Mouse, the X-Bugs, Captain Americat** and **Hulk Bunny** as good guys. **Ducktor Doom, Nagneto, Buzzard, Bullfrog, Mosquito** and the **Breaded Bormammu**, the enemy of **Croctor Strange** (from **PETER PORKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-HAM #4**) as the bad guys.

Richard Kim
1852 Winnipeg St.
Regina, Saskatchewan
CANADA S4P 1G2

Not to mention *Al-ligator Milgrom* showing up in the background all the time, right?

Well, that ol' number at the bottom of the page is telling us it's time to wrap things up, folks. But since the mail just keeps pouring in and we just keep reading it, you can pretty well expect to see another letters page next month in this very space

And you keep up on what's going on in the comics, y'hear? Otherwise, you'll miss *everything!!*



GREENBERG THE VAMPIRE

MARVEL GRAPHIC NOVEL #20

NOTE: FOR MATURE AUDIENCES

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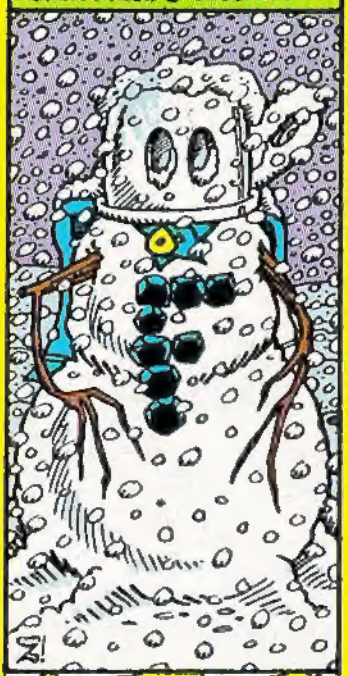
THE MARVEL AGE 1985 CALENDAR

DECEMBER

JIM SALICRUP--WRITER
RON ZALME--ARTIST
ADAM PHILIPS--COLORIST



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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESD
THE 1	2 IF YOU HAVEN'T PICKED UP THE 1986 MARVEL CALENDAR YET -- HURRY BEFORE THEY'RE ALL GONE.	WARRIORS DON'T CALL ME SANTA!
8 HAPPY CHANUKAH!	9 HERE'S A TEAM-UP WE'D LIKE TO SEE...	10 ...CLO DAGW I QUIT.
15 HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MARC DEMATTEIS, YOU @*!#★!!	16	17 HAPP BIRTH ANDY MUSH! ITCHING BUDDA-BUDDA! KPOW! BLAM ITCHING BLAM POW! TAKU TAKU TAK
22 HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CAPRICORN!	23 I'LL SOCK ANYONE WHO CALLS "IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE" CAPRA-CORN!	24 YESTER WAS A FELIX'S BIRTH RIGHTY-O!
29 HAPPY BIRTHDAY, PAUL BECTON!	30	31 NEW YEAR EVE (WHOOPEE

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WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
FRIDAY
SATURDAY
4 HAPPY BIRTHDAY, GEOFF ISHERWOOD!
5
6 FROM SIRIUS. BUT SERIOUSLY FOLKS...
7 HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MIKE HOBSON!
SPIDEY IS A FINK!
10 HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JOHN BUSCEMA!
CANDLES ASSEMBLE!
12 WHAT DO YOU CALL IT WHEN SANTA SEARCHES FOR HIS HELPERS?
AN ELFQUEST!
13 HAPPY BIRTHDAY, KYLE BAKER!
I'M GONNA GET YOU!
14
18
19 HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ELLIOT BROWN!
THAT'S ELIOT! ONE 'L' YOU IDIOTS. IF YOU HAD HALF A BRAIN BETWEEN YOU YOU'D BE DOLTS AT BEST. NOT TO MENTION THE
20 HAPPY BIRTHDAY DAVE SIMONS!
21 HAS SANTA GONE HOLLYWOOD?
LET'S DO THAT LUNCH THING.
25 MERRY X-MAS
RIPP!
26 WOULD YOU BELIEVE IT WAS JOE ROSEN'S BIRTHDAY YESTERDAY? (DO YOU SUPPOSE HE WAS BORN IN A MANGER?)
27 HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MARK BRIGHT!
28 HAPPY BIRTHDAY, Stan Lee AND RALPH MACCHIO!
HAPPY NEW YEAR!!
IT'S NOW THE MARVEL 25TH ANNIVERSARY
1961–1986